Routes to tour in Germany

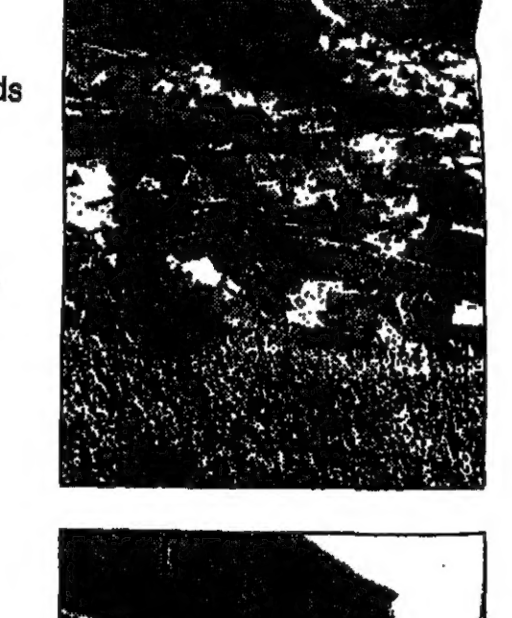
The German Wine Route

Monsheim
Bad Dürkheim
Neustadt
Edenkoben
Bad Bergzabern
Schweigen

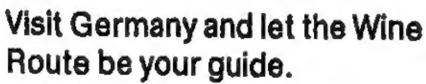


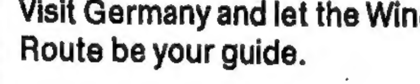
German roads will get you there – to the Palatinate woods, for instance, where 2,000 years ago Roman legionaries were already growing wine. Each vine yields up to three litres of various kinds of wine, such as Riesling, Sylvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Scheurebe or Gewürztraminer. Grapes are gathered in the autumn but the season never ends. Palatinate people are always ready to throw a party, and wine always holds pride of place, generating *Gemütlichkeit* and good cheer. As at the annual Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, or sausage market, the Deidesheim goat auction and the election of the German Wine Queen in Neustadt. Stay the night in wine-growing villages, taste the wines and become a connoisseur.

Visit Germany and let the Wine Route be your guide.

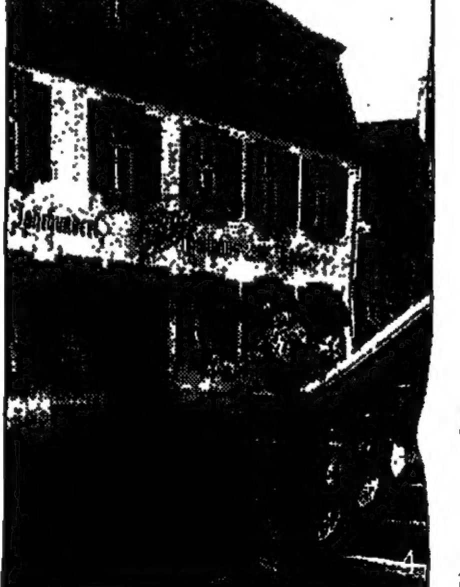




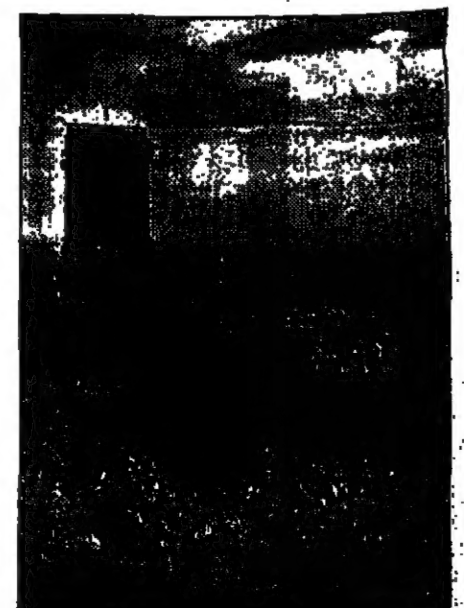














1 Grapes on the vine
2 Dorrenbach
3 St Martin
4 Deidesheim
5 Wachenheim



Hamburg, 7 August 1988
Twenty-seventh year - No. 1334 - By air
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ISSN 0016-8858
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Bonn-Moscow summer of content as Genscher visits Kremlin

DIE WELT

Relations between Bonn and Moscow have developed at a pace noone would have dared forecast last year.

The lengthy ice age predicted by the Bonn Opposition after missile modernisation by Nato and critical comments by Chancellor Kohl has suddenly turned into a summer.

Foreign Minister Genscher basked in this sunshine throughout his weekend visit to the Soviet capital.

There can no longer be any doubt that Mr Gorbachov rates good relations with the Federal Republic high on his foreign policy priorities.

Why else would he have said relations between Moscow and Bonn were crucial [illegible] Europe?

The Soviet leader did not just make do with referring to political and economic reasons: he also mentioned history and the arts.

And Soviet spokesmen were at pains to reassure the German delegation that they were extremely serious on this point.

The flattering course of Herr Genscher's visit naturally had something to do with the Foreign Minister himself.

His support for perestroika and glasnost and his insistence that Mr Gorbachov's domestic and foreign policy openings are irreversible have not failed to make their mark in the Kremlin.

But it would be wrong to equate the attitude of the Soviet leadership with a personal preference for Genscher.

Both he and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Shevardnadze, stressed the importance of Chancellor Kohl and his impending visit to Moscow.

Mr Gorbachov is realistic enough to appreciate the political lie of the land in Bonn, so the statement he and Herr Genscher made to the effect that Kohl's visit would pave the way for a thorough improvement in German-Soviet relations must be taken seriously.

Why this renewed interest in closer cooperation with Bonn? Economic motives would seem to be foremost.

Mr Gorbachov needs Western support for the modernisation of Soviet industry. This is, feels Gorbachov, most readily available in the Federal Republic.

Economic issues played a major role in Genscher's talks in Moscow and they are sure to also to figure high on the agenda when Chancellor Kohl makes his visit.

If there is strictly mutual benefit, there can be no objection.

In political terms it seems probable *that, in giving Bonn preference,* Mr Gorbachov would like to drive a wedge [illegible] ner in Nato.

He might also be keen to alienate Bonn from its partners in the European Community, or at least to prevent further integration in Western Europe.

On both points Herr Genscher left no doubt where Bonn stood.

On America, the Soviet answer was that Moscow had no intention of sowing the seeds of dissension between Europe, America and Canada.

Moscow may yet need to be reminded of its words on this issue.

On the European Community, Herr Genscher was constantly confronted with expressions of alarm about negative consequences of the single internal market planned for 1992.

Could economic relations with the East be harmed by the European Community battening down the hatches?

Might the common European house as envisaged by the Soviet leader not suffer as a result?

Herr Genscher reassured both Gorbachov and Shevardnadze, defending the single internal market and telling them that Eastern Europe also stood to benefit. Chancellor Kohl can expect to face similar questions. He knows that the success of his visit will not depend solely on words and readiness for economic cooperation. If there is to be any point in his visit it must be to arrive at decisions to the benefit of both sides such as including West

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE



Big brother is watching. Genscher (left) and Gorbachov in Moscow under gaze of Marx. (Photo: dpa)

Strauss in Washington: plain speaking on trade issues

Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian Premier and CSU leader, had no intention of being a subordinate foreign-policy figure when he visited Washington in July.

And, almost from the time he landed, he was confronted with the problems a of a full-time German foreign policymaker.

When money and economic interests are involved the hand-shaking partners become hard-nosed competitors.

Politically the CSU leader felt at home with President Reagan and members of his administration.

His succession of visits to Eastern Europe, especially his trip to Moscow, did cause surprise in Washington.

But he had no difficulty in persuading his hosts that he had toured the East bloc as part of his policy of practical politics and not because he had suddenly changed his tune and become a dove on Ostpolitik. He made it clear he had not "mistaken hopes for facts" over changes in Moscow.

Herr Strauss had no difficulty in dispelling doubts even though the Americans don't always find it easy to understand and accept the Ostpolitik interests of Bonn's own.

There was plain speaking on the European Airbus, in which Herr Strauss has a keen personal interest. Aero engineering is one of the last high-tech sectors in which the Americans have retained their supremacy.

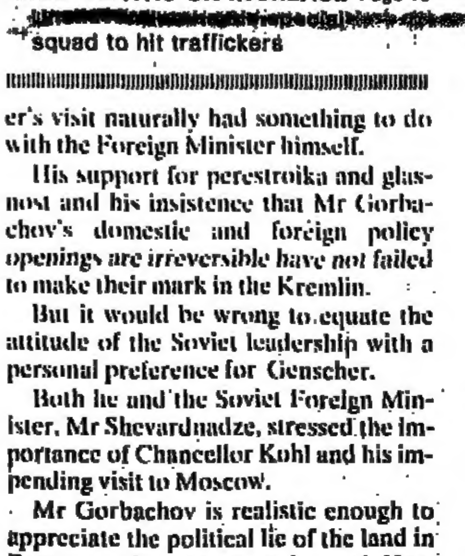
US politicians and industrialists feel alarmed at the prospect of the technically advanced European airliner challenging this supremacy, no matter how modestly.

Washington is intent on nipping this small but dangerous aviation rival in the bud.

So the dispute will continue, especially if the protectionist Democrats come to power in Washington in the New Year.

The best that could then be hoped for is what Herr Strauss is also hoping: that the conflict of interest does not escalate into a full-scale trade war.

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 30 July 1988)



The Airbus is a wonderful aircraft, Strauss (right) tells Reagan. (Photo: dpa)

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Germans look with angst at the prowling spectre of an uncertain 1992

A spectre is stalking Germany: the single European market in 1992. The Germans always did suspect Euro-vampires in Brussels of trying to suck the money from their pockets. Now many feel the single market only confirms their fears.

They see a community of the rich and the hungry robbing them of their social securities and rights. An "economy gone wild" is preparing to deprive nature, the environment and consumers of any kind of protection.

Germans won't even feel safe in the public service. Greeks, say, are suddenly to be no less entitled than Germans to public-service jobs such as tram driving.

This is the syndrome of a nation that has everything, or nearly everything, and no greater worry than that of losing its privileges.

It is a nation that for this very reason runs the risk of losing its dynamism, as the OECD recently noted.

The remedy OECD experts recommend is precisely what German lobbies most vehemently oppose: market deregulation, especially in the service sector, a cutback in subsidies and greater flexibility in wage agreements.

That is exactly what the single European market aims to achieve, which accounts for the hostility. It is voiced from a quarter that otherwise constantly complains that the rich industrialised nations of northern Europe, first and foremost the Germans, are robbing the poorer southern members of the European family.

Suddenly there are fears of the poor and hungry European relatives. They are felt to have nothing else in mind than, by means of the internal market, eating their fill free of charge at the richly-laid German table.

Where money is at issue there is always a moment of truth, as shown by the dispute between Paris and the Bundesbank on interest rate policy and sales of dollars to support the exchange rate of the deutschemark.

Contrary to a worldwide trend the French government is keen to cut interest rates to boost the domestic economy. Paris seeks to protect itself from German "monetary imperialism," which weighs heavily on the weak franc.

German fears of inflation are not shared by the French, who have promptly forgotten the Franco-German economic and financial council set up only a few months ago.

That must come as a relief to those who may have feared that the dynamics of a single European market might reduce the role of member-states. They are evidently not going to dispense at haste with the means of controlling their domestic economies.

The proposed harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies still has serious obstacles to surmount, and they will rule out for some time to come the prerequisites of a common economic policy.

No-one expects the Germans to revert to the enthusiasm for European integration they felt in days when they themselves were still hungry, but they might well bear in mind what they owe to Europe and adopt a more level-headed and pragmatic approach to their own future and that of Europe.

A single figure will suffice to show the importance of the European Community for the German economy. Over 50 per cent of German exports are to European Community member-countries.

Were it not for this secure market the German economy would not have withstood so easily the many slings and arrows of trade and monetary ties in the past 15 years.

On account of their dominant position the Germans long failed to appreciate the opportunities and risks a larger, freer internal market entailed. They have suddenly woken up to them and are alarmed.

With typical German tact they are worried only about themselves and have failed to notice the much livelier course the internal market debate has taken in other Community countries.

The single internal market entails risks and opportunities for them too, with the far more efficient Germans figuring as the foremost risk.

So their first concern has been an attempt to put their own economies in order and enable them to withstand the onslaught of tougher competition in a Europe of deregulated domestic markets.

They also hope that their existing strengths will enable them to corner a larger share of European markets, naturally including the German market. The French, for instance, would love to sell us bargain basement nuclear power and the British their more sophisticated system of insurance services.

Germans are quick to denounce other countries' standards, protective regulations and subsidies as non-tariff barriers and totally unable to appreciate why other European countries see German regulations as trade barriers.

German perfectionism is frequently said to be essential, yet if German safety standards for, say, electrical equipment were indispensable the whole of France ought long to have burnt down.

The internal market is still at the negotiating stage. What is there to prevent us, in a process of give and take, from championing our views of, say, the social dimension?

Northern member-countries of the European Community have similar interests in this connection, and if we take social security seriously the South is sure to benefit sooner or later.

Yet that would cost us money, which is evidently more than solidarity can be expected to require.

Intra-German relations need not suffer from the internal market either, and if we truly respect the GDR's claim to separate statehood our ties with it are bound to be mainly economic.

So it would stand to derive nothing but benefit from an economically powerful Western Europe — always assuming we didn't seal the internal market off from the outside world, which we cannot want to do for the sake of relations with the United States.

In 10 years' time 80 per cent of economic legislation in European Community countries will be laid down by Brussels, says European Commission president Jacques Delors.

What, then, about political control of the process of European integration? By then the European Parliament will yet to have been empowered to exercise control, let alone entitled to do so.

So M. Delors' idea of converting the Council of Ministers into a kind of Bundesrat, or Upper House, that is more strictly controlled by the public and by national parliaments deserves consideration.

The gradual integration of 320 million Europeans in a single internal market entails more opportunities than risks, and no-one seriously doubts that it will lead to a substantial impetus to economic growth.

This is not an aspect that need worry environmentalists. Lack of growth can by no means be equated with environmental protection, as a glance at the East bloc is sufficient to show.

Gnashing of teeth at a European wailing wall is not going to save a single tree, and if we allow ourselves to be guided by those who would soonest build a wall round the Federal Republic to protect their social and other privileges we will soon no longer be able to afford to build one.

Dieter Schröder

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 24 July 1988)

Comecon links 'unlikely to cause miracles'

No miracles should be expected of the new-found cooperation between the European Community and Comecon countries and the establishment of diplomatic relations by Comecon member-countries in Brussels.

The European Commission is negotiating with individual Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) countries on economic cooperation. In some case, trade agreements are being considered.

Diplomatic circles have warned against exaggerated hopes in the new era of economic cooperation even though a great economic and trade potential has opened up between East and West and Mr Gorbachov's reform policy presents new export opportunities for the Western industrialised countries.

It would be unrealistic, as diplomats unofficially emphasised at the talks, to expect the feeble volume of East-West trade to double or to expect there to be a wave of joint venture agreements.

Trade and foreign exchange difficulties persist and cannot easily be surmounted. Trade with the West is impeded by the East's structural shortage of foreign exchange, by the poor quality of its export goods, by the structural encrustation of its system of economic planning and by its heavy sovereign debts totalling $100bn.

Conversely, the European Community protects itself from East Bloc goods such as steel, footwear, textiles and farm produce exported at dumping prices.

Nearly half the European Community's anti-dumping proceedings involve Comecon countries.

Trade between the European Community and Eastern Europe accounts for a mere seven per cent of the Community's trade and is on the decline. Trade between the 12 European Community countries is over three times the volume of trade between the 10 Comecon countries.

That only goes to show the greater economic dynamism of the West and the predominance of the Soviet Union in Comecon.

An agreement on economic cooperation with Hungary has already been initialled. Talks on a trade agreement between the European Community and Czechoslovakia have made substantial headway.

Poland and Bulgaria are biding their time, while the Community is in no hurry to negotiate terms with Rumania, given that country's problems.

East Germany, cautious as ever, was the last Comecon member to notify the European Commission in Brussels of its interest in establishing official relations and concluding trade agreements with the Community.

East Berlin insists, as does Bonn, that intra-German trade concessions must be maintained. They enable it to supply the Federal Republic with goods to the value of roughly DM7bn a year.

They are allowed to cross the intra-German border exempt of European Community tariffs and levies and are over twice as much as East Germany exports to the 11 other European Community countries.

Industrial goods are East Berlin's main concern in trade agreement talks with the European Community. The Community has advised East Germany to diversify its trade ties with the Twelve.

It has also counselled East Germany to boost its competitive standing by improving the qualitative and quantitative structure of its exports and to show greater readiness to consider new forms of cooperation that would substantially increase its leeway in dealings with the industrialised West.

The European Community's foremost Comecon trading partner is the Soviet Union, which accounts for 40 per cent of trade between the two blocs. In 1986 the Community imported goods worth 73bn ECUs and exported goods worth 101bn ECUs to the Soviet Union. Its net trading surplus was 8.52bn ECUs.

The Soviet Union wants to sign an economic cooperation agreement with the Community and has drawn up detailed proposals. European foreign trade commissioner Willy de Clercq of Belgium told Foreign Ministers. But Moscow did not envisage a trade treaty.

The Soviet Union, it was said in diplomatic circles, planned to join Gatt and gain fresh trade policy leeway within this wider framework.

Comecon members Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia are already Gatt members, but Gatt, with its emphasis on free trade, is said to have its reservations about the state-trading countries, especially the Soviet Union.

The Soviet government has said it is prepared to improve its regulations governing the conclusion of joint venture

Continued on page 3

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HOME AFFAIRS

Social Democrats falter in efforts to trip up a weary coalition

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The SPD is doing its best to capitalise on the growing unpopularity of a weary-looking Bonn government, but its latest attempt, a call for a vote of no confidence against Chancellor Helmut Kohl, is both unimpressive and unrealistic.

The Social Democrats could hardly have been surprised at the response. The CDU and the CSU reacted with a mixture of irony and vicious derision.

An opposition party which lacks the strength to take over power should not toy with the idea of toppling the Chancellor.

The fact that Herr Vogel later added that his considerations were not meant to be taken seriously but simply intended to increase the feeling of uncertainty in the conservative union, does not make the SPD's manoeuvre any more convincing.

The SPD leader of all people, a man who always demands precision and correctness in whatever he does, should not resort to such tactical antics when dealing with the Bundestag, which, after all, is a constitutional body.

The basically ineffective attack on the Chancellor's bastion highlights the rift in the SPD between growing self-confidence and its inability to really jeopardise the government.

Opinion polls show that the Social Democrats are catching up on or have even pulled level with the coalition. This trend is stable.

The party also draws new self-assurance from the fact that many voters again believe in the SPD's abilities in various policy fields.

The party's clear victory in the Schleswig-Holstein election also gave it a lift. But it knows that popularity cannot be equated with votes.

Position parties automatically benefit from frustration about government policies. But the SPD must ask itself how much of its popularity is rooted in its own merits. Only then can it assess its real strength.

Despite the signs of disintegration in the coalition, the SPD should avoid cherishing hopes of a quick return to power. The clear patterns of majorities in the Bundestag underline the fact.

Although a few Free Democrats engage in an occasional political "flirt" with the SPD this has no deeper significance, since even arithmetically the SPD and FDP together would not be able to form a government.

This is Kohl's real strength in terms of power politics. The distribution of seats in parliament shows that there is no alternative to the conservative-liberal coalition.

Vogel has quite rightly told coalition dreamers in his own ranks that a return to an SPD-FDP coalition is also unrealistic for both political and pragmatic reasons.

The SPD cannot count on any fundamental change in the situation before the general election in 1990.

It is obliged to accept the fact that, even allowing for all the disenchantment of the voters about the government, the electorate has no apparent desire for a change. The SPD's coalition policy strategy will have to concentrate on the FDP.

A grand coalition with the conservative union would only lead to greater problems for the Social Democrats, and the disunited and fragmented Greens are no longer a conceivable coalition partner.

There are already signs of a more social-liberal orientation, opening the party up towards the political centre.

The leading motions agreed on for the coming SPD party congress have an unmistakable market economy leaning, even though emphasis on government regulations and planning remains.

The ideas which find their expression in the new basic party policy manifest, however, will give a greater indication of where the SPD is going than the next party congress.

The party's decision on whom to select as its candidate for the general election in 1990 will also provide direction.

The choice, which is unlikely to be finalised until 1990, will probably be between Vogel, who embodies continuity and endurance, and Oskar Lafontaine, the Saar Premier and an innovator who has just as many points in his favour.

The SPD must also start forming a good team at the next level of political leadership if it is to stand a real chance of moving back into the Bonn Chancellery. This is one of the party's weaker points.

Although the problem of finding an economic policy expert with the kind of quality shown by (former SPD Finance Minister) Karl Schiller has almost become a cliché it keeps on cropping up.

And whom does the party intend picking as candidates for the Foreign Office or Defence Ministry?

No-one can dispute Vogel when he says that the SPD has moved closer to a possible return to power during recent months and during the last year (under his leadership). Yet this doesn't really mean much. The SPD's prospects of a return to power haven't really improved substantially since the party lost it almost six years ago.

Claus Wettermann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 28 July 1988)

Continued from page 2

agreements by state trading corporations with Western private enterprise companies, taking Western interests more into account. At the same time the Soviet Union is making increasing use of Western capital markets by raising loans, especially in neutral Switzerland.

Given the East bloc's constant shortage of foreign exchange East-West trade could be given a boost if the West were to be more obliging on credit terms.

But past experience has not been encouraging. An initial credit input of several billion dollars in the 1970s boosted trade but failed to lead to structural improvements. At present bilateral credit agreements are in force, concluded by individual European Community and individual Comecon countries but coordinated within the OECD framework.

Hans Wimmer

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 26 July 1988)

Politicians' pay

Here is what MPs get paid.

- Bundestag: To increase by 3.25 per cent from DM8,729 to DM9,013 a month. Tax-free expenses lump sum up by 1.5 per cent to DM5,155 a month.
- Schleswig-Holstein: Since 1.1. 87, DM5,400 a month plus a tax-free lump sum of DM1,800 a month.
- Hamburg: DM1,800 a month since 1986 (meetings are only at night) plus DM500 for expenses and DM200 for travel.
- Bremen: Pay up by 9.5 per cent on 1 July to DM3,632. Plus expenses lump sum of DM650 a month.
- Lower Saxony: Increase of 2.14 per cent in January to DM7,150. Plus tax-free allowance for part-time secretarial staff of DM700.
- North Rhine-Westphalia: Increased by DM210 a month on 1 January to [illegible]
- Berlin: DM4,600 a month since January. Tax-free expense sum: DM1,200.
- Hesse: DM6,500 a month plus tax-free expenses lump sum of between DM4,000 and DM5,400 depending on distance lived from assembly. Automatic increase of seven per cent a year.
- Rhineland-Palatinate: Since July DM6,060 a month. Expenses then increased to DM1,950.
- Saarland: DM5,540 a month since April 1987. Lump sum expenses allowance is DM1,660.
- Bavaria: Increase in June to DM7,858 a month. Tax-free expense allowance was increased to DM4,283 a month and backdated to 1 January.
- Baden-Württemberg: DM5,672 a month; due to go up three per cent.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 23 July 1988)

Uproar, resignations over MPs automatic-pay-rise vote

A decision by the state assembly in Hesse to vote itself an automatic annual increase in pay has erupted into a major row. Two members have resigned — the Speaker, Jochen Lengemann (CDU), and the Deputy Speaker, Erwin Lang (SPD).

But the affair cannot simply be politically sanitised by singling out a few scapegoats. It was a scandalous decision and the moral authority of the entire assembly is at stake.

The credibility of most political parties in Germany has already suffered from a series of scandals.

It will suffer even more if elected members of parliament are suspected of operating a double moral standard: preaching moderation and austerity but practising immoderation and greed.

With the votes of the coalition parties CDU and FDP as well as of the opposition party SPD the Hesse state assembly decided to jack up the taxable monthly basic salaries of its members from DM6,500 to DM8,000 by 1991.

Together with the accompanying increase in the tax-free lump-sum expenses allowance from DM4,000 to DM5,400 a month the increase would cost a total of DM11m by 1991.

In view of the moderate pay settlements in industry and a continuingly high level of unemployment this decision was bound to trigger storms of public protest.

To put the blame on the state assembly speaker and his four deputies, however, would attest to a pretty low opinion of the sovereignty of an elected German parliament.

Although deputy speaker Erwin Lang was heavily involved in the whole affair and proposed the controversial salary and expense allowance increases in the first place in his capacity as head of an internal parliamentary commission, the final decision was not taken by Lang and Lengemann, but by the parliamentary parties of the CDU, FDP and SPD — against the objection of the Greens.

It is fair to assume that the individual assemblymen took a close look at the wording of the amendment to the Hesse Assemblymen Remuneration Act before voting in favour. This makes every single assemblyman responsible.

The best democratic solution would be to immediately announce a new election in Hesse.

As the current state assembly was



elected on 5 April last year this idea is unlikely to find majority support.

The second-best solution would be the abrogation of the controversial amendment.

As this is also called for by the Greens the chances of its realisation are also pretty slim.

In all probability, therefore, there will merely be a few legal rectifications of the amendment, as already agreed on during the first parliamentary reading on 13 July. The proposal made by Hesse Premier Walter Wallmann should point the way: a freeze on the basic salaries and an increase in the reimbursement of expenses by only DM250.

The acceptance of such a proposal would put an end to the affair itself. The obvious question, however, remains: how much can a member of parliament be "reasonably" expected to earn?

The "reasonableness" of remuneration must relate to more than just financial reward for hard work and dedication.

Salaries and allowance for expenses must be structured in such a way as to provide an incentive to freelance professionals to turn their hand to parliamentary activity.

Most members of German parliaments are civil servants and teachers, an unsatisfactory situation.

As Walter Wallmann pointed out there is above all a lack of master craftsmen, physicians, foremen and tax consultants.

The composition of the state assemblies by no means reflects the diversity of social groups. The popularity of parliaments suffer accordingly.

There is an inverse connection between the degree of disenchantment of the electorate with political parties and their credibility.

The lesson to be learnt from the scandal in Hesse is that you can't fool all of the voters all of the time.

Hermann Dexheimer

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 27 July 1988)

■ THE ARMED FORCES

Lots of doubts remain as tank battalions are reduced to skeleton-staff levels

Never has the Bundeswehr launched an experiment with an outcome as uncertain as the one arising from the *Heeresstruktur 2000* programme submitted last spring.

The task is simply stated: "How can one tank or armoured infantry battalion be transformed into two of equal value, each consisting half of reservists?"

The commanding general of the three army corps entrusted with the task have been given a free hand in how they set about this experiment.

The senior of the three, Lt-Gen. Werner Lange of II Corps in Ulm, has listed the considerations on which the experiment is based as far as his corps is concerned.

They affect 293 and 294 Tank Battalions, stationed in Stetten, and 302 and 303 Armoured Infantry Battalions, stationed in Ellwangen.

The new *Heeresstruktur*, or army structure programme, provides for two out of four battalions in each brigade being run on a skeleton staff from the mid-1990s.

They will consist of a small staff of full-time men and be brought up to full fighting strength by calling up reservists in the event of hostilities.

That is the task. But how many men are needed and what qualifications must they have?

No new recruits have been taken on by 293 and 303 battalions since last summer. From next January they will be down to a skeleton staff of 50 men to keep the unit operational. But what exactly are they then expected to do?

General Lange, for instance, would like to set up an NCO training company in one battalion. Trainee NCOs would then no longer need to be sent up north for three months' training.

He hopes more men would then apply to become non-commissioned officers. He is short of 1,000 NCOs at present. But can the skeleton staff of the battalion run this training company?

How many staff officers will a skeleton battalion need? Staff officers in the sense that the battalion will need to liaise with the local reservists' administration and ensure that enough trained men remain available to attend reserve exercises of their old unit.

Will the skeleton staff be enough to train reservists? The Bundeswehr is breaking new ground where equipment is concerned too, General Lange says.

Mechanical equipment can be mothballed without too much difficulty. Rifles, field guns and tanks can be lubricated and simply stored.

But the Leopard Mk 2, the Bundeswehr's new main battle tank, is full to the gun turret with electronics that, as industry has shown, is best never switched off.

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Yet the army is giving it a try. A number of Leo 2s are being mothballed for two years in II Corps.

Others are to be mothballed but aired at regular intervals to keep rust at bay. Still others will stay in use and be exchanged for tanks withdrawn from active, full-strength units.

But are 50 men enough to do all this work? And which storage method will take the lowest toll of expensive equipment?

The regular manpower of the remaining full-strength battalions is to be increased by 10 per cent and to help out when needed.

But can the full-strength units be transferred to the border in an emergency before the reservists arrive?

Are the reservists and their skeleton staff going to manage on their own? The next two years should provide answers to all these questions.

General Lange says the Bundeswehr will need to come up with some bright ideas to persuade what is, basically, a growing number of reservists to play along with this arrangement.

One incentive could be the idea of running reserve exercises along class reunion lines, with men who underwent basic training together taking part in exercises together.

Exercises must then be "sensible" and run by officers with leadership skills.

Men who were tank drivers as conscripts must drive tanks while on exercise.

In the past, he says, good tank drivers or gunners have finished training every three months, but on reserve exercises they have often been assigned duties such as guarding bridges.

This is clearly uneconomic. General Lange's explanation for it is that the Bundeswehr is only just getting round to action on the abandonment of Nato's massive retaliation strategy.

Yet it is over 20 years since massive retaliation was abandoned in favour of a flexible response.

In those days, he says, the emphasis was on units that could get on the road immediately but were only expected to fight for a few days — so reserves (and reservists) mattered less.

The new armed forces structure, making a virtue out of necessity, naturally entails running risks. The combat strength of a skeleton, or cadre battalion is clearly less than that of a unit which is "in being." Politicians will in future need to decide sooner whether reservists are to be mobilised. The armed forces will need longer to prepare for action. Military and political leaders at the Defence Ministry felt only a little over a year ago that the new structure would not be needed until the mid-1990s.

Until then, General Lange says, the top brass hoped to handle the manpower shortage by makeshift arrangements.

It was late in the day before they realised that funds would not be sufficient to maintain more than 28 motorised brigades, of which only 16 could be equipped with the latest material.

The cost of repairing old equipment is bound to increase, while the fight for funds on which to run the armed services is growing ever tougher.

"You could retread the entire army for what the new fighter is going to cost," General Lange says — adding that the air force is naturally important.

The financial lie of the land, he also admits, has been fairly clear for some time.

He is worried most about career soldiers, men who signed on for longer terms while they were conscripts.

The Finance Minister has earmarked cash enough for them at present, he says, but in future he will need to enlist more career soldiers from fewer recruits — and with industry competing more keenly for the available manpower.

If these men are not available, he says, the entire armed forces structure programme will be impracticable.

Chancellor Kohl is reputed to have said that "what comes out at the other end" is what matters. Where experiments with the new armed forces structure are concerned even the most experienced officers seem to have no clear idea what the outcome will be.

Detlef Puhl

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 25 July 1988)

Continued from page 1

Berlin in agreements that in some cases have been shelved for years. Agreements that have been held up by failure to agree on the city's status include a two-year cultural exchange programme and an agreement on environmental protection.

Herr Genscher impressed on his Soviet hosts that the disputes over Berlin needed settling once and for all.

If the Soviets were to oblige on this point it would be a sign of serious intentions instead of just fine words, on detente. It would have a decisive effect on the course of the Chancellor's visit.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, Bonn, 1 August 1988)

Complaints and surveys show declining morale

When Chancellor Kohl mentioned "mutual respect and comradeship" at an army passing-out parade in Hanover, it was unclear whether he was making merely a general, universally valid comment or whether he was making a deliberate reference to present conditions.

The atmosphere in the armed forces has worsened, in spite of the reluctance of some politicians and senior officers to face the fact.

Recently findings in a poll of young officers reveals lowered morale — and confirms the trend. This ought to cause as much concern as the shortage of cash for new generations of weapons and the shortage of manpower in low birth-rate generations.

Back in autumn 1979 an official commission chaired by former Bundeswehr inspector-general Ulrich de Maizière found the armed forces to be "functionally and technically efficient."

In a report that was highly regarded at the time the commission added that the "human climate" had grown cooler, and at times cold.

In recent months there have been increasing signs that this was merely the beginning of a trend:

- There are constant complaints from all branches of the armed forces that working hours are too long.
- The Army inspector has called for more, better trained and better paid NCOs and officers.
- Nearly one reservist in three doesn't bother to turn up for exercises.
- In six "Talks with Our Bundeswehr" held by the SPD, soldiers voiced massive dissatisfaction with service conditions.
- Roughly one man in four in the appropriate age group has applied for early retirement since the option was created three years ago.
- The latest report to the Bundestag by armed forces commissioner Willi Weiskirch, not a man given to dramatise the situation, rapped spiteful behaviour by superior officers so trenchantly that a number of high-ranking officers felt unfairly attacked and sidestepped official channels to complain in public.
- A poll of 16- to 19-year-olds has shown the public image of the Bundeswehr to be appalling.

The latest findings are those of a survey conducted among officer cadets on "Serving Soldiers."

Roughly 2,750 cadets from five years' intake were polled, so the range of men interviewed was substantial.

They too testified to a degree of dissatisfaction with conditions in the armed forces that ought to shake Defence Ministry officials in Bonn.

The climate of opinion is bad, not only in the forces but at staff colleges.

Even at the Bundeswehr universities in Hamburg and Munich dissatisfaction with conditions of service and superior officers is widespread.

Nearly 40 per cent of respondents complained about the "inner climate" within the Bundeswehr.

Sixty-nine per cent complained that young officers had too little leeway for ideas and objectives of their own.

Seventy-seven per cent had encountered in their early service years instances of superior officers behaving in a way they felt at times clashed head-on with modern, cooperative leadership style. It follows almost as a matter of course that one in two doubted whether he really wanted to become a professional soldier. Thirty-three per cent had decided they didn't, while only 16.5 per cent were determined to make the armed forces their career.

These and earlier findings are hard to reconcile with the fighting strength the Bundeswehr is constantly said to possess (and is required to have).

A few technocrats may still not believe it, but military efficiency depends not only on combat aircraft and tanks, on the latest radar equipment and missiles. It depends to at least as great an extent on manpower motivation.

If men are to be motivated, welfare provisions must be improved to keep pace with developments in civilian life. Above all, close attention must be paid to the way soldiers of all ranks get on with each other.

Why is it that matters have taken a turn for the worse in this department? Lt-Gen. Wolf von Baudissin (retd) is the best-known representative of the group of men who coined the concepts that stand for a system of new and democratic armed forces structure.

They are the concepts of "inner leadership" and the "citizen in uniform." In a recent interview he too concluded that these principles had declined in validity.

Asked why, he said: "In case of doubt it is always, sad to say, due to the top level of a hierarchy." The leadership was to blame for the atmosphere.

He advised Rupert Scholz, the new Bonn Defence Minister, to intensify "inner leadership" training. A leader of men who failed to deal with his men in accordance with these principles must, he said, expect to run the risk of career disadvantages.

Rudolf Grosskopff

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 24 July 1988)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Coming IMF meeting provokes renewed debate over Third World debt

Third World debt will again be a major item next month when the two central financial institutions of the Western world, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, meet in Berlin. It will be the first time this annual meeting has been held in Germany.

The signs are that the conference and the debt issue will be used for ideological purposes — especially as many leading international commercial banks will be holding meetings in Berlin at the same time.

The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches have called for "fresh alliances" to be forged in the fight against the debt crisis.

The annual gathering of the IMF and the World Bank are said by Bishop Kruse, chairman of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany, to present an opportunity of focussing the attention of public opinion on the problem.

Speaking at a church symposium in Berlin, he doubted whether the debts were ethically justified and advocated a partial debt waiver.

At the same meeting a spokesman for the (left-wing) Federal Congress of Development Policy Action Groups called for an unconditional remission of all debts.

The IMF and the World Bank, he said, were glossing over the crisis while pursuing "murderous strategies" to solve it.

Neither claim is true. The IMF and the World Bank are worried and have drawn up over the past year new proposals to improve financing, rescheduling and adjustment opportunities open to developing countries.

In the process they have even moved a little further in the dubious direction of international redistribution.

At the Toronto summit the leaders of the seven leading Western industrial countries agreed on a deliberate and limited debt waiver for the poorest debtor countries in Africa.

Germany has already remitted debts, quietly and discreetly. Even individual commercial banks are gingerly considering a partial debt waiver in certain circumstances.

There is no sure-fire solution to the sovereign debt crisis. The debtor countries are not suffering from a bout of economic fever that can easily be assuaged by a (financial) shot or two in the arm. Their complaints are chronic and will be harder to cure.

Each country is a different case and in need of specific treatment rather than some general nostrum.

The constant call for a general remission of debts is thus no help even though it might, from the viewpoint of the developing countries, paint an attractive picture of a fresh and debt-free start.

Even a partial remission is fraught with risks. The main objective of all endeavours must first and foremost be that of restoring the debtor countries' creditworthiness so as to ensure access to the funds they need for future development (as opposed to debt funding).

So it is largely up to the debtor countries themselves to develop along the lines of the industrialised world — if that is what they want, which it evidently is.

Criticism of the system thus sidesteps the issue, especially the enjoinder that the creditors must not stipulate any conditions.

If the debtor countries want to become industrialised countries in their own right they must learn how to put financial assistance and loans to good use.

They must regain the confidence of both their creditors and their own citizens by pursuing sensible economic policies which dissuade people from investing their savings abroad.

They ought also, as the World Bank has rightly noted, reconsider their in some cases enormous arms expenditure.

Yet there can be no mistaking the fact that many debtor countries, no matter how much they may try, are no longer in a position to cope with their burdens.

This inability is compounded by slow growth in the industrialised countries, by US shortcomings that weigh heavily on the world economy and by unremittingly powerful protectionist forces in industrialised countries threatened by unemployment.

We would do well to recall the wise words of Hermann J. Abs, the banker who negotiated German payments commitments by the terms of the London Debts Agreement in the early 1950s.

"We must bear in mind," he said, "that all agreements or programmes are worthless when the countries concerned, despite the best will in the world, are politically unable to uphold them."

It is in the industrialised countries' own best interest to ensure that a sound economic development is resumed in the debtor countries.

The United States, as the Latin American countries' main creditors, have found out to their cost what it means when their customers can no longer afford to buy goods because they simply haven't the cash.

The IMF's Michel Camdesssus recently noted in Frankfurt that everyone would be the loser if reasonable growth were not resumed soon.

After the somewhat short-term stopgap measures undertaken in the first few years after the outbreak of the debt crisis there has been a realisation on all sides that an extremely long-term approach is what is needed.

Extreme patience and economic moderation will long continue to be required. Radical demands and onesided attributions of guilt are no more help in solving the crisis than naive charity.

The Berlin conference, for instance, will not be the scene of far-reaching new initiatives for the simple reason that a US Presidential election is imminent.

The gathering will be held and pass by; the debt crisis is here to stay.

Jürgen Jeske

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 July 1988)

DM7.5 billion written off — Bonn report

Last year Germany invested just over DM7.9bn in development aid. About DM6.5bn of this was spent by the Economic Cooperation Ministry.

Over half this total went to the world's poorest countries, the development aid white paper for 1987 says.

It says that since 1978, Germany has waived debts totalling DM7.5bn, which includes the DM3.3bn waiver agreed by the Federal Cabinet in June.

Development Aid Minister Hans Klein, CSU, said in presenting the report in Bonn that the government would continue to lend the Third World "specific support" in fighting poverty and in its efforts to achieve economic recovery.

He had to admit that the government's overall development aid expenditure was DM400m down on 1986 last year. This regrettable downturn, as he termed it, was typical of all donor countries.

He made it clear that the latest debt remission agreed by the Bonn government was accompanied by specific expectations of the countries concerned.

What was expected of them, he said, was a readiness to go ahead with what he felt was indispensable privatisation, deregulation and "sensible" agreements with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund

The only countries he mentioned specifically were Burma and Zambia. It ought to be made clear to both of them in negotiations that what they were being counselled was not the Devil's handiwork.

Herr Klein also expected development aid recipients to show greater goodwill on matters of environmental protection. At the September meeting

Süddeutsche Zeitung

of the IMF in Berlin the World Bank would, at his suggestion, be submitting an interim report on endeavours in this respect.

He had also suggested that the World Bank take on the role of a coordinator in environmental protection because, as he put it, it couldn't be done on a bilateral basis.

He reaffirmed his view that government aid could not be given to Nicaragua for the time being. He would agree to do so only when the Contadora group of five Central American states headed by President Arias of Costa Rica had arrived at the conclusion that the peace process had really got going in Nicaragua.

Recent reports from Nicaragua were not encouraging but he hoped the situation would improve.

He said his foremost concern was not to boost German exports by making development aid grants. But he hoped that wherever possible German aid would be used to buy German goods rather than American or Japanese products.

Stephan-Andreas Casdorff

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 21 July 1988)

■ THE COCOM LIST OF BANNED EXPORTS

Essential for security? Or just part of a dark corner of the Cold War?

Cocom is the organisation which decides what technology can be exported to the East Bloc and what cannot be. The Paris-based body (it stands for Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Control) consists of 16 member states. Its list of banned items is often controversial and it has often been accused of being too slow to revise it. In this article, which looks at the causes and effects of Cocom for the Hamburg weekly, *Die Zeit*, Wolfgang Hoffmann quotes a Social Democrat economics specialist as saying that technological progress is so fast that Cocom just cannot keep pace. A new Cocom list is now being issued and Hoffmann writes that one of the ironic results illustrates just how slow the changes are: East Germany has already developed a line of personal computer which is selling well. It will now have some uninvited competition from a similar product from the West.

When Chancellor Helmut Kohl visits Moscow this autumn he'll be taking along part of a revised version of the Cocom list.

During a visit to Bonn in January the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, referred to the list as this "damned list".

It is an extensive catalogue of more than 1,000 items which are not allowed to be exported to the East Bloc for strategic reasons.

From 1 August a new Cocom computer list will be introduced. This allows previously banned small computers up to a certain size to be exported to the East bloc.

The negotiators of Cocom's 16 member states from the western industrialised world took six years to revise the list.

But it is not clear whether Mikhail Gorbachov will really be all that pleased about the revisions Kohl will give him: some of the newly freed items en already be bought in countries which do not belong to the Paris Cocom club.

Trade in the export of computers, which Cocom member states are not allowed to export to East bloc countries, flourishes in India, Peru, Cuba, Red China and South Korea.

In one East bloc country, East Germany, the lifting of the Cocom export ban on small computers will cause some real problems.

The East German Robitron combine, which has established a good position on its domestic market with its personal computers, will now have to face up to some uninvited competition from the West.

This example just goes to show how slow Cocom is to respond to the actual market situation on modern technology and how long and drawn-out the procedure of revising the Cocom lists is.

Wolfgang Roth, the economic spokesman of the SPD's parliamentary group in the Bundestag, claims that technological progress generally moves so fast that the revision of the Cocom list cannot keep pace.

What Cocom still regards today as high-tech," said Roth, "is in reality something which in some case anybody can buy in the shops."

The Cocom list covers all weapons, nuclear technologies as well as goods and technologies of strategic significance, which includes items with both civil and military use ("dual-use commodities").

Such items can only be exported to the East Bloc if special permission is granted.

Apart from the serious lack of foreign exchange in the East bloc and the growing indebtedness to the West, the Cocom lists are one of the major reasons for the unfavourable climate of East-West trade relations.

Exports by West German mechanical engineering firms, for example, which used to account for about 30 per cent of all West German exports to the East bloc, have suffered considerably during recent years from the adverse effects of Cocom stipulations.

The decline in this sector was 15 per cent in 1987. Machinery exports to the USSR even fell by 27 per cent.

In view of growing political detente a revision of the Cocom regulations would be one of the best steps towards enabling an extension of trade relations with the East bloc.

For the first time in many years there is talk of revising all the export control lists.

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher returned from his visit to Washington at the beginning of this years with the message that the USA was ready to revise.

The first concrete signal was given a few weeks ago when the European aeronautics group Airbus Industrie and the US firm Boeing were given the go-ahead to export previously listed civil aircraft to East Germany and Poland.

Apart from lifting the export ban on small computers Cocom also gives exporters greater flexibility.

Up to now, exporters had to carry out on-the-spot checks at regular intervals to make sure importers were actually using exports for civil purposes in cases where Cocom granted special permission to export for goods which were as a rule subject to the export ban.

This regulation, associated with substantial follow-on costs for exporters, has also been relaxed.

During a press conference given shortly before he went on his summer holidays Chancellor Helmut Kohl advocated further change in the Cocom provisions. He said he would make every effort to bring about this change and said that he was convinced that this change is bound to come.

DIE ZEIT

The SPD's Roth had already called for a fundamental change in Cocom's export philosophy.

"The boycotting policy is outdated in security policy terms," he said. "At a time when the principle of common security is gaining ground the objective of trying to ensure the economic and technological weakness of the 'enemy' no longer makes sense."

In autumn the SPD will try to organise a parliamentary debate on the Cocom problem.

Without referring to the USA by name Helmut Kohl even levelled some unmistakable criticism against American Cocom supporters.

He called the Cocom lists a "piece of hypocrisy" which only served to improve one's own position.

The Chancellor's claim was confirmed by a study conducted by the Hessian Foundation for Peace and Conflict Research.

The study's author, Reinhard Rode, shows that the USA has not only always played a lone hand at regular intervals on tightening the trade restrictions against the East Bloc, but has been active in applying for exemptions when the interests of the US economy were at stake.

Rode discovered that "the USA already accounted for the lion's share of applications for exemptions, which were then granted, in the 70s... The USA accounted for over half of the 4,000 annual applications for exemptions made during the 80s."

These exemptions, however, mainly related to trade with Red China. Although China belong to the Communist bloc the USA also dropped Cocom regulations when trying to strengthen China's position against the Soviets.

This policy began under President Carter and was continued under the Reagan Administration.

China even received American military technology, for example, a radar- and computer-assisted fire control system for the Chinese F 8 fighter-interceptor aircraft.

The claim often made by the USA that the USSR needs western knowhow for its military high-tech activities has been disproved by a number of studies.

In a study published in May by the Science and Politics Foundation in Ebenhausen, an institution which advises the Bonn government, Jürgen Nötzold said: "The widespread assumption that Soviet imports from western industrialised countries concentrate on the most advanced technology is incorrect. According to the OECD the share of high-tech imports was less than two per cent."

The transfer of foreign technology by no means automatically guarantees its smooth application and further development.

Western exporters tell of numerous adjustment problems the Soviet Union has when trying to use western technology.

Even the American secret service CIA has realised this fact. In an internal paper it described the problems facing the USSR when copying western technology:

"The task is no easy one. Soviet engineers took more time to copy the IBM system 360 than it took IBM to develop the first model of this system."

Strangely enough, the Soviets achieve their greatest technological successes in fields where there is a partial embargo on imports from the West.

As Jürgen Nötzold explained: "As a result of the embargo measures against equipment for the Soviet gas pipeline in 1982 the USSR began to produce the technology they needed for compressor construction themselves. "This example also shows that the Soviet interest in imports was not caused by technological inabilities, but by capacity bottlenecks accompanying the rapid extension of the gas supply network."

The development of nuclear weapons, carrier missiles and space technology also demonstrate the ability of the Soviets to produce highly sophisticated technologies themselves.

What is more, the Soviet Union advanced to become a superpower at a time when there was a particularly strict application of the Cocom regulations.

"The planning of arms production under the conditions of armament rivalry," Nötzold added, "cannot make itself reliant on import possibilities. The increasingly complex technology cannot be understand without efforts in one's own country; highly complex electronic control systems and gene manipulation cannot be copied."

These facts are confirmed by a thesis forwarded by René Herrmann from the Max Planck Institute.

The major objective of America's export policy, which the USA also tries to pursue within the Cocom framework, says Herrmann, is "the desire to re-establish and ensure extensive American leadership in the Atlantic Alliance and in the alliance with Japan."

In the final analysis, however, the repercussions of such big-power politics does the US economy more harm than good.

A study group from the US Academy of Sciences produced some scathing criticism of the American export control policy in the field of technology transfer:

"The result (of this policy) is a complex and confusing system of control, which unnecessarily impairs American high-tech exports to other countries in the free world."

A survey of 170 American firms in the electronics, aviation, instrument construction and mechanical engineering sectors, which together account for 28 per cent of all US high-tech sales, produced the following picture:

- 52 per cent of these firms reported that their sales had declined:
- In over 212 individual cases 26 per cent had to drop business deals with clients from the free world, and
- 38 per cent had business dealings with clients who turned to non-American partners.

All these firms blamed their problems on US export controls.

The Academy of Sciences was able to confirm that the export policy leads to fewer investments and lower growth rates.

Admittedly, such economic repercussions do have a positive effect.

American firms worried about their competitiveness are stepping up pressure on the US government to ease export controls, including the Cocom regulations.

This pressure is currently so great that the prospects of a complete revision of the Cocom lists look good.

Reinhard Rode from the Hessian Foundation for Peace and Conflict Research has an idea how the reform could be structured.

In a first step the control lists should reduce the number of taboo commodities by about forty per cent.

If the policy of detente and disarmament continues the way it has been up to ninety per cent of the items currently listed could be dropped.

However, the export of the remaining goods - only the latest top technology - should be very tightly controlled.

Rode rejects the line pursued by the Cocom policy. He feels that "all ideas of a business-based diplomacy along the lines of stop-and-go for the business with the East belongs in the dark corner of the Cold War."

Wolfgang Hoffmann

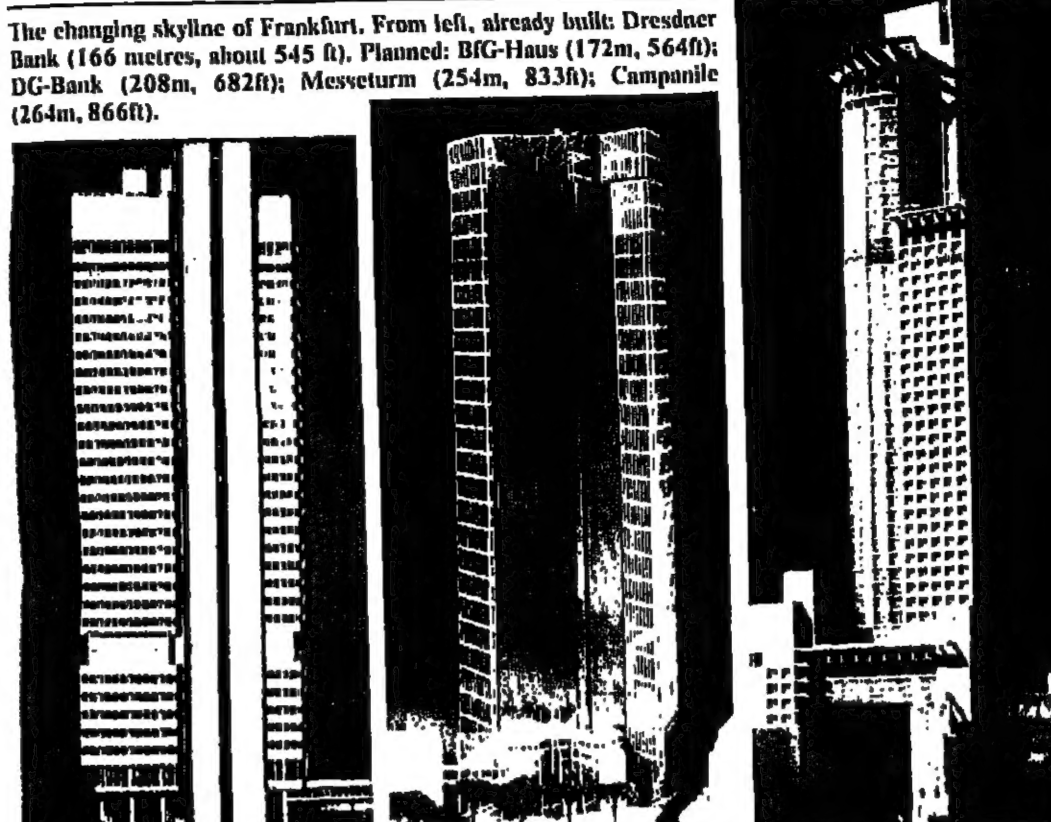
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 29 July 1988)



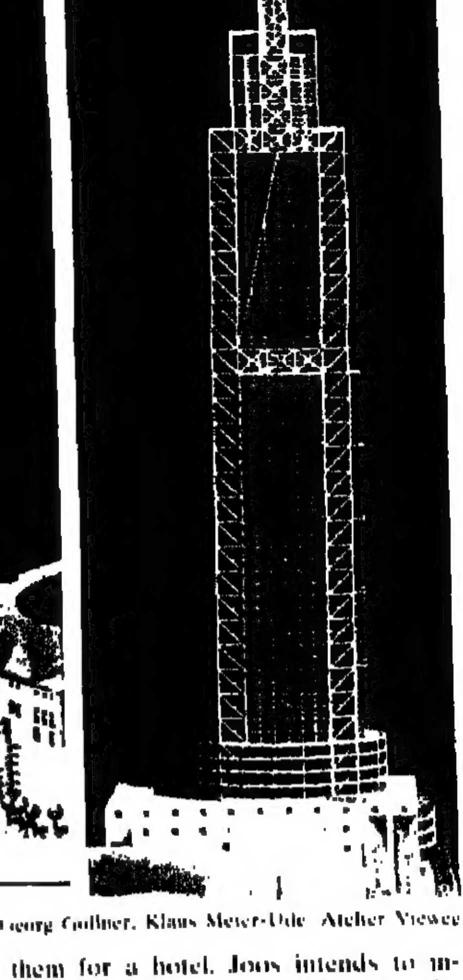
■ ARCHITECTURE

The heavens become the limit as a city's hostility to skyscrapers recedes

The changing skyline of Frankfurt. From left, already built: Dresdner Bank (166 metres, about 545 ft). Planned: BfG-Haus (172m, 564ft); DG-Bank (208m, 682ft); Messeturm (254m, 833ft); Campanile (264m, 866ft).







(Photos: Hans Georg Gollner, Klaus Meier-Ude, Atelier Viewee)

Frankfurt is reaching for the stars. Four skyscrapers are planned — two of which will be bigger than anything else in Europe. Work has begun on one, Messeturm

Placing the cornerstone of Messeturm (it means exhibition tower) was the signal for a high-altitude display of architectural fireworks above Germany's financial centre. It signalled Frankfurt's breakthrough into the skyscraper dimension.

The imposing Messeturm will, at 254 metres, be 100 metres higher than anything else in Germany. But it will be smaller than the Campanile, which is planned to rise 264 metres. Work on it is due to begin in a few weeks.

Then there is BfG-Haus, planned to be 172 metres high; and Haus der DG-Bank (208 metres).

Is this all a vision of horror? Frankfurt's construction projects are always controversial. But the ranks of critics have thinned out noticeably. Public opinion has changed. Seventies' hostility to skyscrapers has given way to curiosity about the challenge they offer the city.

Why? Superficially, the surprisingly interesting appearances of the last three high-rise towers to be built is probably the major factor.

They are the Deutsche Bank building, which has twin towers, and Torhaus der Messe. Deutsche Bank's towers are glittering. Their glassy exteriors reflect every mirage-like air movement. The Messe building's base with its red stone work and its slim sword of blue glass sprouting out of it, have been a new kind of architecture for the public.

Skyscrapers like this have shown that architecture can be witty, daring and elegant. The public realises that tall buildings do not have to obscure or stifle. Their reflective surfaces can be used to deflect light down on to the streets, sometimes so dazzling, that motorists have demanded a layer of filtering paint for the building.

The new generation of architects has joined the trend for "beautiful" skyscrapers. Chicago's Helmut Jahn has given his Messeturm a 34-metre-high glass pyramid. It will be Germany's first peaked skyscraper. Jahn, born in Zirndorf in Germany, has bridged modernism with the classical tower forms of the old continent. The Frankfurt skyline will have a stylish mixture of the old and the new. Jahn says the new tower could become a "symbol for Frankfurt."

How should one receive a symbol? The ceremony surrounding the placing of the corner-stone betrayed a nervous tension which one would more expect for the arrival of a guest of honour. After the word of greeting, the Fulda youth orchestra, the craftsmen's guild choir and the Main jazz gang began to play.

The head of the Messe (fair), Horstmar Stauber praised the close relationship between aesthetic high brow and the new "technology generation." Planning councillor, Hans Küppers, said the new architectural design was an important event for town planning.

The head of the German Museum of Architecture, Heinrich Klotz, emphasized that: "Buildings like this are a novelty [illegible] the Atlantic. They annul the familiar skyscraper geometry as introduced by Mies van der Rohe."

Messeturm's 55 floors will have 62,000 square metres of office space. Building costs will be DM500m. The American real estate group, Tishman-Speyer, one of the biggest building companies in the world, are the contractors.

One of the joint owners, Jerry I Speyer, comes from a family that is descended from Frankfurt people. He wants to build Europe's most architecturally and technically attractive office building.

The German subsidiary of the American Citibank agreed to finance the project, after the Deutsche Bank and allegedly Friedrich Karl Flick pulled out after lengthy negotiations.

The DM250m building contract went to the Hochtief building company. The contract secures 300 jobs for three years. The firm has applied for permission to work at night so that the building will be ready for occupation by 1991.

e architectural idealists have got the go-ahead. But there are others hot on their heels. Frankfurt architect Helmut W. Joos wants to his Campanile, at the central railway station, to be an improvement on Messeturm in several respects.

He intends to build 67 instead of 55 storeys. There will be a restaurant 210 metres up, like the one dropped for Messeturm at the last minute.

The gross area of his tower is 100,000 square metres. He wants the top two technology storeys ten metres and five centimetres higher than the Messeturm. The building will have an antenna which wil bring its height to 300 metres — as tall as the Eiffel Tower.

The special characteristics of the design are the outlying steel girders which carry the building and which rise out of a quadratic pedestal and taper off retrogressively.

The building's framework is a cystalline filigree lattice work; there will be 29 floors for office space and 17 above them for a hotel. Joos intends to increase the effect of the building at night. He wants to illuminate the steel framework and the roof.

The Mannheim Fay real estate group are backing the Campanile project. Ramada, the American concern, will include the hotel in its Renaissance chain.

New York architects Kohn, Pedersen, Fox, together with the Frankfurt Werner Pfaff estate administration group (commissioned for the DG bank and a Dutch pension fund) want to build a 208-metre-high building at the Platz der Republik, half way between the other two towers. The building's 50 storeys will have 77,000 square metres of office space.

The design is homogeneous but interesting. Its staggered pedestal resembles villa and office block architecture of Frankfurt's adjoining West End.

The DG-Bank tower is basically two towers stuck together. There is a 150-metre high square shaped tower on one side. The measurements are similar to the first generation of Frankfurt skyscrapers.

The taller second tower is made of glass and metal. It has two straight sides which meet to form a right angle. The third side is rounded. On top are an emergency exit and a metal structure which sticks out like a crown from the building. Joos wanted a "feature of the Frankfurt skyline which looked out on to the old part of the city."

The fourth tower will go up a 100 metres away on the Mainzner Landstrasse. Three German architects intend to put up a 172-metre building with 47 storeys for the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft. They want to harmonise it with the building line between the twin towers of the Deutsche Bank and the DG-Bank's skyscraper.

The efforts of German architects to get an attractive "head" for the building, which could optically slim down the other buildings, look ungainly. But they have not finalized anything yet. In this

Continued on page 13

"The big buildings already in Frankfurt have shown that architecture can be witty and daring and elegant. Tall buildings do not have to stifle"

Storehouse. The silicon disc comprises 80 4-megabit chips. A diamond cutter will be used to divide them up. (Photo: Siemens)

■ COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

A mega-step after 2,000 man years: mega-chip to challenge the Japanese

Siemens have drawn level with their Japanese arch-rivals in manufacturing a prototype four-megabit microchip.

More is at stake than a sliver of silicon. Megachip production techniques are considered to be of crucial importance for other industries.

They should also be worth their weight in gold for the first past the post.

It is the first time a European manufacturer has been able to announce more or less simultaneously with the hitherto all-powerful Japanese microelectronics multis the latest development in microchip technology.

It is also good news inasmuch as German taxpayers have already paid dearly for the privilege.

Subsidies paid by the Federal Research and Technology Ministry alone have totalled DM320m. That sounds a lot. It is a lot. Yet it is a mere 10 per cent of the R&D outlay.

What makes the megachip so expensive and why bother spending so much money on it?

The vital statistics of the new chip, which is due to go into series production next year, are impressive. Each chip can accommodate four million bits, or items of binary information.

That corresponds to over 200,000 units (or letters of the alphabet), over 100 typewritten pages or an entire issue of the *Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt*.

To house this abundance of data on a fingernail-sized surface area of 91 square millimetres patterns must be traced in lines of less than 0.001 mm, or roughly the wavelength of light visible to the naked eye.

These lines are not just arranged alongside each other; some are superimposed at five or more levels. So the technology required is indeed advanced.

It is known as sub-micron technology, micron standing for a thousandth of a millimetre.

Siemens and Philips, who joined forces in the mega-project, took about 2,000 man-years to perfect the technology.

The making of a four-megabit chip involves 350 individual procedures, and the slightest mistake in any of them could make the entire chip a dud.

Over 80 per cent wastage is considered normal. Several manufacturers have over two years' experience of making one-megabit chips, yet they are only just getting round to less wastage.

Even so, a number of manufacturers are keen to join the ranks of megachip manufacturers — and for several reasons. The first is that the world market for megachips is interesting in itself.

In 1986 world turnover was about $30bn. By 1995 it is expected to increase fivefold. So it would seem worthwhile joining the fray.

Another aspect of even greater significance is that although microelectronics may only account for 0.5 per cent of West German industrial turnover microelectronic components hold the key to performance and commercial success in electrical engineering, office and information technology, mechanical engineering, vehicle manufacture and precision engineering.

Research and Technology Ministry officials in Bonn say 60 per cent of German industrial turnover relies on microelectronics to a crucial extent.

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

In recent years it has emerged as a touchstone of competitive potential for key industries, and the manufacture of microchips holds the key to microelectronics.

They are used almost exclusively in computers but rely on fairly simple and regular structures from which manufacturers can derive and practise the know-how needed for more complex circuits without which high tech is just a four-letter word or two.

Many manufacturers in the Federal Republic and the United States have been slow to appreciate the point. Electronics company executives have tended to see chips as components like any other — to be bought from the lowest bidder.

This mistaken view of the situation has not only hampered technological development; it has also cost computer manufacturers a packet.

There are usually three or four generations of microchips on the market at any given time. At present they are the 64-kilobit chip (with a capacity equivalent to roughly six typewritten pages and now used only in home computers), the 256-kilobit chip (four times larger, as it were, and used in low-cost personal computers) and the megachip (used in up-market equipment).

Whenever a new generation makes its appearance the previous top model becomes the standard model and the previous standard models can no longer be sold (or no longer sell at much of a profit).

First the Americans, then the Japanese, who in recent years have usually been two to three years ahead of their competitors, have derived enormous benefit from this state of affairs.

As long as production capacity is limited and demand is heavy, manufacturers of the latest chips can do more than recoup their immense R&D outlay; they can also net enormous profits.

Once enough manufacturers have sufficient capacity to meet demand, prices plummet, to 10 per cent and less of the original price, which is not enough to recoup investment costs, let alone earn a profit.

European chip manufacturers have for years failed to be among the first past the post — and have had to pay the price. That hasn't really made them much keener to invest in microchip development.

Yet while American and European manufacturers have usually got on well with each other even when markets have been very much off-balance, competition grew much keener when the Japanese joined the fray and took over the lead in semiconductors in 1983.

By 1986 nearly 50 per cent of integrated circuits were made in Japan. The figure for microchips was about 80 per cent, while the European share sank to less than 10 per cent.

The United States and Europe were unhappy, both fearing the Japanese might extend their lead in world markets to a monopoly. The extent to which these fears were justified is another matter, but in 1984 the alarm was sounded in Washington and in European capitals.

Their reactions differed. US manufacturers called on Washington to enforce protectionist measures that led to the 1986 "chip war."

The United States forced the Japanese either to charge much more for their chips or to cut back their production so as to consolidate the market position of US manufacturers.

European manufacturers of integrated circuits were not in a position to bring political leverage to bear, but they set out to catch up with the Americans and Japanese and called on their governments to bankroll them with heavy subsidies.

This strategy has now proved successful. Early this year Siemens started mass-producing megachips at the new semiconductor works in Regensburg, Bavaria.

They did so over a year later than their Japanese competitors and first had to buy production know-how for an unknown but unquestionably substantial sum from Toshiba.

Siemens have evidently now mastered the technology, and by the end of this year megachip output is to be stepped up to one million a month.

All being well, the Munich multi plans to be in the running from the start with the four-megabit chip.

It is, perhaps, just as well that prices in the semiconductor market have increased considerably in the past six months as a result of Japanese production cutbacks.

Computer manufacturers outside Japan face serious supply bottlenecks for 256-kilobit and megabit chips, especially American manufacturers whose government imposed these restrictions.

At the end of last year megachips cost $15. They now cost $30 and more. Outside Japan Siemens are the only firm that manufacture them not only for their own use but also sell them to other companies.

Demand is brisk, and the Munich multi is earning good money from microchips for once.

The aim is for megachip turnover first to equal the cost of building the Regensburg works, about DM600m.

The four-megabit chip and, in particular, special sub-micron technology circuits are then to recoup the mega-project outlay.

In a few years' time the break-even point is envisaged.

There are no plans to refund government grants. In the years ahead the German electronics industry will be clamouring for a substantial amount in further grants.

It argues that microelectronics is a key sector and that subsidies are essential to offset the heavy subsidies ploughed into Japanese and US research and development, with the resulting competitive disadvantage enjoyed — if that is the right word — by European manufacturers.

These arguments in favour of society footing part of the bill for the future of an entire industry cannot lightly be dismissed.

But they also debase the arguments on which, in technologically less ambitious eras, the principles of profit-oriented private enterprise were held high.

Michael Charlier

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 17 July 1988)

■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

New Porsche 959 just the wagon to go shopping in

Hamburger Abendblatt

A four-wheel drive version of the Porsche 911 won the Paris-Dakar rally. This was a forerunner of the Porsche 959, which made its debut at the 1985 International Motor Show.

Its powerhouse is the air-cooled 2.8-litre six-cylinder opposite-cylinder engine, compressed to 8.3 : 1, with a water-cooled four-valve cylinder head.

With two turbochargers it has an engine performance of 300 kW/450 bhp and the engine catapults the 1,450-kilogram car from zero to 100km/h in 3.9 seconds. Its maximum speed is 320km/h.

Apart from the price of DM420,000, however, there's one big snag: there aren't enough Porsche 959s to meet the demand.

After Porsche announced that it would be selling 200 of the 959 model roughly 1,600 prospective buyers from all over the world announced their interest in the car.

In advertisements during the first six months of 1988, prices of DM600,000, DM900,000 and even DM1.4m were offered for the 959!

But despite this, Professor Bott, a member of Porsche's managing board, said that the publicity still was expensive [illegible] ever had.

Although the list price is much too high for the average car buyer, it was not high enough to reflect the true development costs of the sophisticated engineering and high-quality materials, he said.

The last models of this exclusive car in terms of price, performance, driving comfort and the very best technology are now being delivered.

Whereas a VW-Golf is manufactured in just under 17 hours the Porsche 959s need roughly 1,200 hours! The first cars took up to 3,000 hours.

To ensure that the buyers gets the product in mint condition, each car is wrapped up in thick bandages to protect it against lose stones and with a special plastic sheet to protect the windscreen and then test-driven over a distance of about 300 kilometres - including a run at maximum speed.

It is then given the finishing touches in about 50 more hours of special treatment.

Herbert von Karajan, Walter Röhrl and Ion Tiriac are among the lucky ones to get their orders in on time. The other buyers prefer to remain anonymous.

The handling instructions state that it is easy to drive the Porsche 959, "since top priority was given to driving safety and easy handling during the development of this remarkable car." After taking a test-drive ourselves we confirm this claim.

At a speed of 200km/h the average braking distance, under optimum conditions but not including the driver's reaction time, is 160 metres. At 250km/h it increases to 253 metres, at 300km/h to 368 metres, and at the maximum speed of 320km/h to 428 metres!

These figures were measured under ideal conditions on a road surface with a good grip and using an ABS system up until the moment the car came to a halt. Such optimum conditions don't usually exist.

Taking into account the usual reaction time, the driver's moment of shock, the stopping distance at 300km/h increases by a further 67 metres! Don't forget, however, that you're covering a distance of 83 metres per second at that speed.

The balanced proportions of the Porsche 959 therefore, with its cleverly integrated rear spoiler are very impressive.

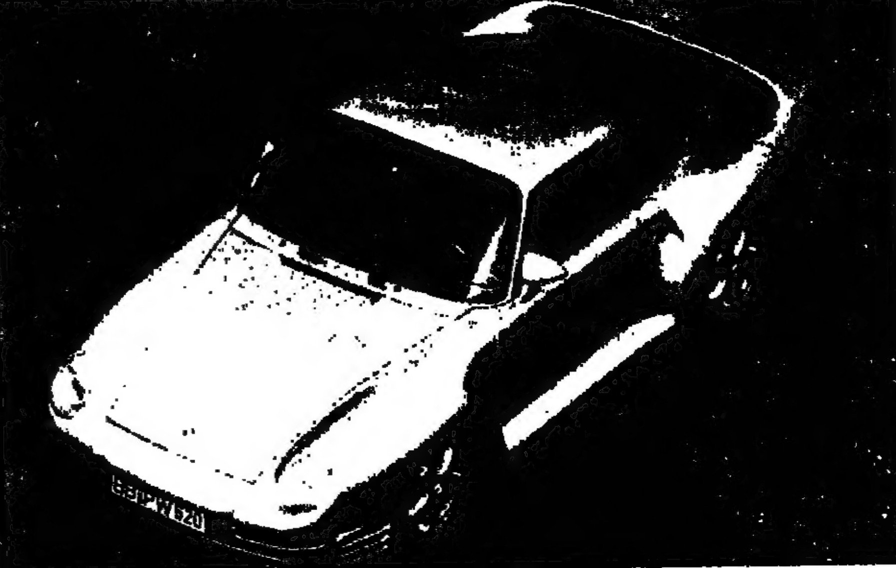
At first glance it looks like a variation of the Porsche 911

The powerful engine had to make do with a swept volume of 2.85 litres so that car buyers are able to take part in contests.

The fuel management of the double-turbo engine with four-valve technology is electronically regulated.

The cleverly elaborated, water-cooled compound charging, which builds up the charge-air pressure almost without delay, is constructed in such a way that the first thrust already sets in after 2,000 revolutions per minute at lower engine-speed range with maximum performance, whereas the second turboloader starts operating with tremendous thrust at 4,500 revs.

The engine power on the other side of 200km/h gives the driver the feeling as if he were starting in a powerful saloon car and moving from zero to 100km/h.



420,000 marks and not even a spare wheel . . Porsche 959. (Photo: Zimmermann)

The six-gear transmission, which is operated via a hydraulic clutch, works with tremendous precision and with short gear-shifting spaces.

The grading shows experienced drivers the incredible power in the engine.

At constant speed the front axle takes 40% of the thrust and the rear axle 60%; when accelerating the corresponding ratio is 20:80.

The Porsche 959 has no spare wheel. It has Denloc safety tires from Dunlop, specially designed for high-speed driving.

A new feature is the air pressure control system, which even gives the driver a signal when his wheel rims are damaged.

There is also a special switch with which the driver can adjust the ground clearance level to 120mm, 150mm and 180mm

At high speeds, above 150km/h, the car is automatically lowered. The car then automatically returns to the pre-selected ground clearance level following deceleration; the system operates hydropneumatically.

After just a few kilometres of driving the car's smooth handling becomes clear.

The particularly well-styled seats have an appealing design and are electrically adjustable and, as an extra, heatable.

The engine starts immediately after just one turn of the ignition key.

Although it is clearly audible the car is astonishingly quiet.

The permanent four-wheel drive makes it easy to drive the 959, but does presuppose that there is an experienced driver at the wheel who realises that he's moving 450 bhp.

A look at the speedometer (up to 340 km/h) gives the driver an idea of the car's potential.

The car runs very much like the Porsche 911 during city driving thanks to the well-adjusted power-assisted steering, which is provided as a standard fitting.

The car can be ideally adjusted to road conditions and its suspension varied.

Its good road-holding characteristics become clear when driving on minor roads with a lot of bends.

The coordination between steering and braking - an inside-vented brake disc system with four calipers in each case and a hydraulic brake booster - is exemplary.

A drive down the autobahn indicates the power in the rear power plant.

From zero to 80km/h in just under three seconds and to 140km/h in seven seconds.

The engine, in which 18 litres of oil and 25 litres of motor coolant are circulating, is clearly audible.

The 959 is a car which needs a responsible driver who knows how to adjust the vehicle's temperament to respective traffic conditions.

The official figures given for fuel consumption at a speed of between 90 and 120km/h and in the city are between 9.3 to 10.7 litres respectively and 17.5 litres unleaded or leaded premium; the fuel tank capacity is 84 litres.

With an initial percentage of 110% and a DM2,000 excess fully comprehensive insurance can cost between DM20,000 and DM30,000 a year.

The concept, fittings and design of the Porsche 959 make it a technology package which offers today what may someday be taken for granted in high-performance sports cars.

A remarkable car for the connoisseur with the cash.

E. Seifert

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 16 July 1988)

■ EXHIBITIONS

Looking inside Albania — from the Stone Age to modern times

Every year for 12 years, the Roemer and Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim has held a summer exhibition of a great ancient culture's inheritance.

The exhibitions have been such a hit and the resonance abroad so great that they have enticed many countries into loaning their treasures.

This summer's exhibition is "Albania - treasures from Shqiperi." Hildesheim will be showing Albanian archaeological treasures for the first time. The beauty and variety of the items rival that of previous exhibitions.

Since 1985, The Academy of Science's archaeological centre and the Albanian National Museum in Tirana had



Zeus, bronze, 25.5 cm high, circa 460 BC.

been planning an exhibition. The Albanians unexpectedly agreed to it after the establishment of diplomatic relations between Germany and Albania.

The country, Stalinist and isolationist since the end of World War II, has been cut off politically and culturally for decades. It became the "Terra incognita" of Europe. It now turns out, to the surprise of archaeologists, that Albania has been archaeologically active during these decades.

Albania can now display a rich cultural inheritance with objects stretching from the Stone Age to modern times.

The people were given the name "Albanians" by Byzantines, but they call themselves Shqipetars, meaning "the eagle's brood." The population is predominantly Muslim, a result of centuries of Turkish domination.

About 97 per cent is descended from the ancient Illyrian tribes which inhabited the Balkan peninsula in 2000 B.C. Illyrians intermarried with the next-door Thracians, who like themselves, were an Indo-European-speaking people. These tribes had settled in this part of Europe before the Greeks and long before the Slavs.

The Illyrians are first mentioned as an independent people in the fifth century B.C. by the Greek historian Herodotus. The Illyrians were then in the middle of a political, strategic, cultural and economic development. Because of its border with Greece and its position on the Adriatic sea and the resultant connection with Rome and the peoples in the Danube area, Albania had extensive relations with the then known world. Excavations have confirmed this. Findings

Bremer Nachrichten

have revealed Albania's richness in architecture and art.

The exhibition has 500 fascinating items including early examples of skilled crafts, among them remarkably sophisticated ceramic vessels, idols, stone, copper and bronze tools, swords and lance heads, a hoard of axe blades and jewels of gold, silver, bronze, glass and amber.

The Albanians had an interest in abstract as well as ornamental art. Abstract forms can be traced back to Hellenic influence from 700 B.C. The island of Corfu had established a number of Greek colonies on the Albanian coast: the most important of these were Dyrrachium (Durres) and Apollonia (Pojani). Modern archaeological excavations revealed that they became centres of Greek civilization. However the influence of ancient Greece did not spread far inland. The Illyrians protected themselves by living in mountain regions.

An enormous clay storage jar, the largest of Greek vases, corinthian vase paintings and other archaeological findings like the hoard of coins are proof of their adjustment to the Greeks. Sculptures, like the Greek spear thrower and a magnificient woman's head, are among treasures from this period.

The wealth of Albanian princes is attested to, among other things, by the grave findings in Belsh of 70 opulent gifts. Finely wrought crafted furnishings and a girl's beautiful glass drinking horn were found in a younger family grave from the second and third centuries A.D.

Illyrian pirate ships harassed and endangered Roman trade in the Adriatic. And in 167 B.C., in retribution, Rome conquered Illyria and Macedonia.

Unlike the Greeks, the Romans moved inland, establishing colonies and military stations and excellent roads throughout the country. Albania was more than just of strategic importance to Rome.

Conquering Albania enabled Rome to capture one of the ancient world's most important centres of learning in Apollonia (Durres). Octavius, later Emperor Augustus, studied there. It also enabled them to cross the Adriatic from Brundisium, where the Appian Way ended, to the via Egnatia in Durres and which lead to Byzantium in the East.

Tiberius was able to conquer the country in 9 A.D., after he defeated a national uprising.

The exhibition shows the conquerers in all their glory in life-sized and larger than life busts, statues and reliefs. They show how Albania's cultural importance survived up to the time of the migration of peoples.

Albania produced several emperors. Among them are Maximinus Thrax, Decius, Probus and important ones like Diocletian and Constantine the Great.

The Capitolinian Museum in Rome has lent a wealth of art to the exhibition. Among the well preserved displays are a sixth century mosaic, a massive seventh century gold goblet, numerous jewels and a small selection of medieval icons.

The Albanians, who in 1079, were documented for the first time by Michael Ataliates, have a rich inheritance. In the 15th century, the national hero Georg Kastriota, also called Skanderberg, tried to prevent the Turks from invading. His picture is here and his personality, too, along with this small nation's share of Europe's cultural inheritance.

Günther Heiderich

(Bremer Nachrichten, 16 July 1988)



Sphinx figure, bronze, 13 cm high, 3rd C BC. In Albanian exhibition. (Photo: Catalogue)

On a trip with Homer into the slaughterhouse for humans

Berlin, 1988's European cultural city, has put on an exhibition of Mycenaean treasures.

The exhibition, "Mycenaean Greece - The country of Homer's heroes", has been organised by the Free University of Berlin and the Greek cultural ministry.

Now you can share Heinrich Schliemann's euphoria, as he discovered under three thousand years of rubble, golden tiaras, rings, bowls and goblets.

Berlin is displaying the most comprehensive exhibition of Mycenaean art ever. There are 320 pieces on loan from 30 Greek museums, from Cyprus, Switzerland, Denmark and West Germany.

The pieces are from the 1600 to 1100 B.C. period. They are examples of the first advanced civilization on European soil. Their cultural centre was south west from Athens.

The Mycenians were superior to other European peoples because they produced new materials like bronze and perfected the use of horse and cart and a written language.

They controlled the Mediterranean for 500 years. Mycenian culture influenced the whole of Europe. The Mycenaean age was the formative era of

Frankfurter Neue Presse

Greek mythology. Many of the Greek gods first appear during this period.

Up to a century ago, Mycenae was associated above all else with gloomy Greeks myth of infanticide, matricide, incest, cannibalism, adultery and the murdering of spouses

The Greek playwright Sophocles described in his play *Electra*, the palace of the Mycenaean dynasty as a "house of the dead". The playwright Aeschylus said it was a slaughterhouse for people.

Mycenae was the home of Homer's celebrated king Agamemnon, who led the Greeks in their 10-year trojan war, and who was murdered by his wife on his return.

Schliemann was an amateur archaeologist fascinated by Homer. He wanted to show the world that Homer's Iliad was a description of real events.

In 1876, he discovered the Mycenaean royal graves and found the confirmation of the Homer's lines on "golden Mycenae."

The jewels and vases are ornamented with spiral designs, portrayals of butterflies, rosettes, and circles. Schliemann's golden masks are not on view for conservation reasons. Whenhe found them he sent a telgram to Athens: "I have seen the face of Agamemnon. The clay statues of goddesses on display are also beautiful. They have tubular lower abdomens, but also an imperceptible smile and an expressive face which gently brings them alive.

Lieselotte Müller

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 16 July 1988)



Female idols, clay, 12-14 C BC. (Photos: Catalogue)

■ EDUCATION

Objections to new plan for Islamic religious classes

The *Land* of North Rhine-Westphalia has introduced special Islamic religious instruction for Muslim children, mainly Turkish. The project has the backing of the Turkish government — Turkey is a secular state — but is opposed by the controversial Islamic Koran schools, which have come under increasing criticism for their teaching methods. Koran schools claim the exclusive right to teach Islamic religion and they regard the project as a declaration of cultural war. The German mainstream churches also oppose the project. They are afraid it will lead to Islam gaining an equal footing as a state-recognised religion. Stefan Willeke reports for the *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

Ismail Dolap is a Turk who teaches religion to Turkish children living in Germany.

Germany, a country with strong Christian roots, looks mistrustfully at Islam — but it is obliged to take an interest in it.

Dolap, who teaches at the Essen Stadthafen school, is one of about 1,000 Turkish primary school teachers in North Rhine-Westphalia taking part in a new teaching programme.

The idea is to establish a compromise for these mainly bilingual children between Eastern European culture and a Western European lifestyle.

As a western industrialised country, Germany has always found it awkward giving children of Gastarbeiter, generally Turkish, families, an understanding of their own culture.

It is hoped the project will help the integration of young Moslems into German society.

The guidelines have been laid down by the North Rhine-Westphalian Education Ministry, which has been wanting to do something along these lines for years.

But the aims are more than merely to give the roughly 40,000 Moslem primary school pupils in the region a slightly better insight into Islamic beliefs through the three hours of supplementary instruction in their mother tongue.

Other key objectives are democratic education in the spirit of the West German constitution and, ultimately, the adoption of an integration model in schools which has already been adopted following a successful pilot phase in Austria, Belgium and Holland.

Klaus Gebauer, a department head at the Soest Schools and Further Training Institute, which has developed the instruction model for the Education Ministry, emphasised that the model does not intend violating Moslem religious beliefs.

Gebauer's intentions, which are marked by careful restraint, will certainly not be welcomed by one Moslem institution: the traditional Koran schools in Germany.

These schools preach the beliefs of their native country with adamant conservatism and claim to be the only institution morally entitled to do so.

The new religious instruction model is bound to undermine the position of the Koran schools.

It is hardly surprising that the Koran schools regard the teaching project as a threat and as a cultural policy declaration of war.

The preachers in the Koran schools, who view their task as a vocation, are unwilling to accept that Islam is taught in schools as a kind of "general knowledge subject" (Dolap). What is more, by people who are paid to impart this knowledge just like people in any other profession.

Gebauer knows that the children who attend the religious instruction at school are "put under pressure" by the Koran schools. "Even the parents are sometimes terrorised," he says.

The activities in the Moslem boarding school run by the radical preacher Cemaleddin Kaplan, nicknamed the "Khomeini of Cologne", recently drew attention to this problem.

Kaplan's supporters have set up Islamic centres and boarding schools in quite a number of cities in the Ruhr area.

Nationalistic Islam strongholds are mainly located in those urban districts in which the Turkish workers feel isolated.

"Even we teachers are helpless," says Ismail Dolap.

Dolap particularly mistrusts those Koran schools which are run without the official backing of the Turkish government.

"The children there have to learn Arabic suras off by heart and pray on their knees for hours on end after school has finished," he pointed out.

In Turkey adolescents are only then allowed to attend the Koran schools when they are no longer officially required to go to school.

One nine-year-old girl in Dolap's class is frightened of the Koran preachers and their strictly orthodox religious beliefs.

Referring to his many years of experience with the self-appointed preachers, Gebauer claimed that the children in the Koran schools are often beaten.

The expert in teaching methods, whose institute also produces the textbooks for the curriculum, also realises

Frankfurter Rundschau

that the integration programme of the SPD-run state government in North Rhine-Westphalia is not a selfless project.

"We're not a charity," said Gebauer, "but are pursuing a specific social interest: basic democratic consensus. And we want to protect children from unreasonable educational practices."

Dolap agreed: "We must work for integration so that Turkish children who have grown up here find it easier to live in this society."

This is no easy task. The teacher from Turkey knows that there are many worried parents who feel that the teachings of the Koran are missing in the school curriculum and who fear the "estrangement of their children" (Dolap).

Apart from the exaggerated authority of the father Gebauer criticised the "false sexual education" of the conservative Turkish families.

Furthermore, he complained that the political values these families support are incompatible with modern political thinking, since politics is always presented as something which is unfathomable and political activity is limited to identification with leading political figures.

Gebauer makes sure that all school policy decisions on the content of the Islam curriculum are coordinated with the Turkish government.

The Turkish theologian Orhan Karnis advises the education specialists at the Soest Institute on religious matters relating to Islam.

Turkey's Prime Minister, Turgut Özal, favours what is happening — but not so much on cultural as on economic grounds.

As Gebauer explained, Özal is interested in remaining in the favour of the Western Europeans because of his country's efforts to become a full member of the European Community.

Gebauer feels that Turkey views itself as a "hinge" between Islam and the western industrial world.

"At the moment they're giving their seal of approval to things which would never have been initiated in Turkey." (Gebauer).

Gebauer, therefore, has enough official backing to go on extending the integration programme.

It is hoped that a curriculum draft will be ready for the fifth- and sixth-year classes by December, and that the entire secondary school will be included by 1990.

The teachers of religious instruction will be taking part in advanced training seminars during the coming months.

These seminars will be run by a team of three "moderators": a German educationalist, a Turkish educationalist and a schools inspector.

Gebauer feels that the teachers are still "somewhat inexperienced" in the art of religious instruction.

The integration model is not only having trouble with fundamentalist Imams but also with German religious institutions.

The churches feel that their claim to be the sole representative of society's religious interests is in jeopardy.

They are stepping up efforts to prevent Islam from obtaining an equal status in German schools.

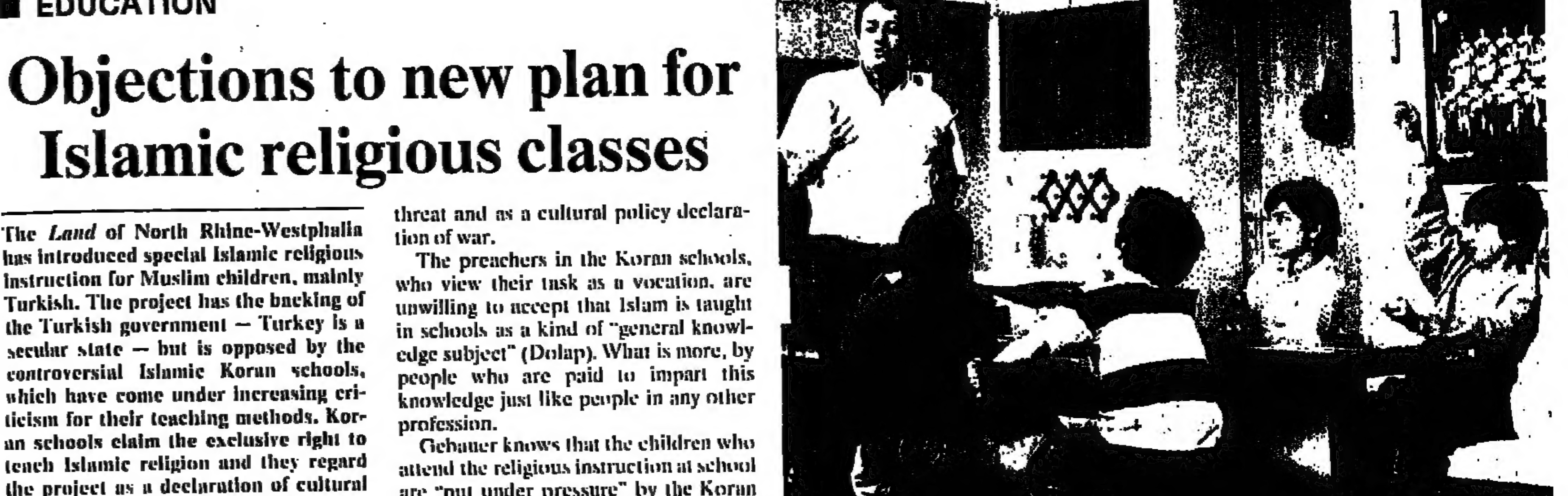
Despite all the contradictions and conflicts life in the Stadthafen school in Essen seems to be peaceful.

When the children get restless Dolup tells a fairytale instead of talking about religion."Sometimes," says Gülsen Bayram, 9, "he also tells really good jokes."

And if the Imam is the butt, Gülsen's laughter is even louder.

Stefan Willeke

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 July 1988)



Please, sir! How far is it from Ankara to Essen? (Photo: Willeke)

Father banned daughter from 'immoral lessons'

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The 55-year-old Bonn businessman who described himself as an "upright Christian" has been fined 200 marks for refusing to allow his 15-year-old daughter to go to school. He told the court that she was being exposed to "immorality" in the classroom.

Incensed by the decision, the father now says he would rather accept more fines than allow his daughter to attend lessons in which abortion was glorified and in which teachers gave sexual education just "because of the six to eight thousand known cases of Aids in Germany."

He told the judge he had always preached abstinence to his daughter. The deep rift between the school and the parents had plunged the child into insoluble moral conflict.

The school had been guilty of a serious violation of "parental rights", and his refusal to allow the girl to attend classes had been his way of objecting.

On 15 July, 1987, the daughter, Eva, was told that she would have to repeat a year because of poor marks, particularly in German and religion.

The father claimed that the marks were not due to dullness but because the girl had opinions which contradicted those of the teachers and because she had expressed the "healthy opinion of her parental home" in her written tests.

He had thought about sending her to a different, denominational school, but first wanted her to be cleared of the stigma of having to repeat a year.

The school had rejected the father's demand that the marks in her last report be improved to enable her to move up a class.

The judge said the man was on the way to producing "an unemployed person of tomorrow" by keeping her away from school.

What Eva herself feels about the affair and the court decision remains unknown.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 7 July 1988)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Drinking water from rivers: fears that test results are being kept secret

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

In spite of official assurances, many people are sceptical about the quality of drinking water.

Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle says residual quantities of impurities in the ground water, mainly traces of pesticides, do not constitute a health hazard. The quality of tap water was good.

But will he be believed by people whose tap water is drawn from the banks of rivers, then filtered and processed?

The seal deaths resulting from the algae build up in the North Sea are dramatic evidence of the alarming increase in pollution there.

There is a dangerous conflict of interest on land: industry and local authorities use the rivers as a rubbish dump. They pump effluent in and it is taken down to the sea.

Yet the rivers are also seen as an inexhaustible supply of drinking water.

People who live along the Rhine, which carries more toxin into the North Sea than any other German river, can still feel fairly safe.

Local authorities such as Cologne and Bonn have invested in the most up-to-date purification plant, such as active carbon filters.

But it didn't really take the Sandoz chemical spill, which killed fish and river life for hundreds of miles downstream from the Swiss drug company's Basle works, for people to realise that the waterworks have reached the limits of their capacity.

The first comprehensive official report on Rhine pollution was published *12 years ago.*

In March 1976 a council of environmental experts commissioned by the Bonn government released findings on Environmental Problems of the Rhine that did not make do with a description of the river's bill of ill-health.

The report called for the enforcement of existing legislation to protect the river:

"The council is convinced that pollution of the river and destruction of the landscape and living environment are neither natural nor an inevitable accompaniment of growing prosperity.

"They are more a consequence of short-sighted planning pegged to a single purpose, of a lack of perspective, of inadequate organisation and of a lack of political clout."

The aims and interests the river serves have not changed in the meantime. At an expert hearing in the wake of the Sandoz catastrophe Wolfgang Linden of a Cologne environmental pep group tried to outline the extent to which the Rhine is harnessed by riparian states.

"By the time it reaches its estuary," he said, "it is carrying between 25 and 30 tons an hour of poorly biodegradable substances."

That, he added from the chemist's viewpoint, was the equivalent of 46 freight trains a day, each tipping the contents of 50 goods waggons into the North Sea. Or 16,878 trainloads a year shipped free of charge by the Rhine.

This deadweight pumped down the Rhine into the North Sea, which serves a number of countries as a garbage tip, comes from an estimated 15,000 industrial, commercial and local authority drains along the course of a river that is the catchment basin for 20 per cent of European chemicals companies.

The International Working Party of Rhine Water Boards estimates that last year's inconceivable total of more or less toxic waste pumped into and down the Rhine into the North Sea included:

- 12.6 million tons of chloride.
- six million tons of sulphate.
- 360,000 tons of nitrate.
- 34,000 tons of phosphates.
- 180 tons of arsenic.
- 12,600 tons of barium.
- nine tons of cadmium.
- 630 tons of chromium.
- 450 tons of copper.
- 4.5 tons of mercury.
- 360 tons of lead
- and 3,060 tons of zinc.

These are the quantities estimated to have been carried downstream at the Dutch border. The mean annual total of toxic chemical factory waste that is flushed down the Rhine into the North Sea is estimated by the German Rhine Purification Commission at 284,000 tons of hydrocarbons and 2,500 tons of chlorinated hydrocarbons.

The experts seem to agree that statistics on the quantities of toxins pumped by riparian states down the Rhine into the North Sea can only be regarded as rough estimates.

Besides, the sheer range of toxins presents problems of its own. Experts work on the assumption that a substantial proportion of the many chemicals used or manufactured along the Rhine (estimated at between 100,000 and 140,000 in number) sooner or later find their way into the river.

Only about one per cent of these substances can be identified by laboratory analysis. Hydrologist Professor Heinrich Sontheimer says only 50 of the 400 or so pesticides, most highly toxic, that are used in agriculture can be identified in this way.

Chemists admit that they have no idea what compounds the many substances form as they flow down to the sea.

The administrative attention that is paid to toxins in the Rhine depends on progress in laboratory analysis techniques.

Once new equipment and new techniques are available scientists come across new substances in the river water and can settle down to argue about their toxic effect on flora and fauna and, of course and in particular, about who is to blame for them.

The general public, water boards and scientists alarmed about the quality of drinking water from the Rhine feel they have for decades been dragged into a game of hide-and-seek between the authorities and those who are to blame for pollution.

Professor Gerhard Naber, president of the International Working Party of Rhine Water Boards, complained at its October 1987 conference that:

"In a number of countries the small print of effluent disposal permits and the findings of laboratory analysis of samples continue to be some of the best-kept secrets.

"It is high time this anachronism was ended. Waterworks on the Rhine must be entitled to learn which toxins are pumped, and in what quantities, with official approval into the Rhine and its tributaries day in, day out."

Ecologistgs complain that Federal and *Land* environmental protection legislation is largely ineffective.

Biologist Nikolaus Geiler, spokesman for the Federal Association of Environmental Protection Initiatives (BBU), says:

"Legal provisions for regulating effluent disposal cannot as a rule be used to the full because the political *resolve is* lacking and the money, *manpower* and equipment at the disposal of factory inspectorates and water boards are totally inadequate.

"This shortcoming is evident not only in checks of large-scale effluent producers but also, even more noticeably, in inspection of and advice to indirect effluent disposers."

(This category includes many small and medium-sized firms such as photo labs, dry cleaners and painters and decorators: they dispose of their effluent "indirectly" via local authority sewers.)

In North Rhine-Westphalia, where the *Land* government is tight-lipped about the effluent disposal records kept by large firms, stricter regulations have applied to "indirect" offenders since the New Year.

All commercial enterprises that pump liquid waste into the public sewers are now required to hold licences.

But what use is this provision as long as the companies themselves are the judge of whether they exceed the limit above which they must apply for a licence?

Local authorities are so short of staff that trade and industry can take it easy, secure in the knowledge that they are unlikely to be checked in a hurry.

In Bonn a full-time staff of seven, three workmen and a conscious objector doing "civil" service are *expected to* keep an eye on between 700 and 1,000 firms with production waste that might be pumped into the public *sewers.*

Yet Bonn can pride itself on being fairly well-staffed to handle this task.

In the wake of the latest pollution reports from the North Sea Bonn Environment Minister Klaus Töpfer has announced that limits are to be imposed from next year on phosphorus and nitrogen in local authority sewage pumped into the river.

Yet that calls for a third stage of sewage treatment that most German local authorities along the Rhine do not yet have. Planning and construction usually take three to four years, always assuming that politicians and local government officials get a move on.

The state of affairs in Bonn can be judged from a reply by the chief local government officer to a local politician who has long clamoured for a third sewage treatment stage.

"In accordance with the provisions of the draft administrative regulations on an amendment to the first General Administrative, Regulations on minimum

Continued on page 15

■ MEDICINE

After almost 200 years, homoeopathy wins grudging scientific support

In 1790, a German doctor noticed that a substance known as cinchona, or Peruvian Bark, appeared to have unusual medical properties. He performed some experiments and concluded that the symptoms produced by it on the healthy body were similar to those it was used to cure — just like it said in the medical proverb, *Similia similibus curantur* (like cures like). Samuel Christian Friedrich Hahnemann had established the principles of the treatment known as homoeopathy in which minute amounts of drugs are used to provoke symptoms similar to a disease. Hahnemann, who was born in the Saxon town of Meissen, today part of East Germany, published his findings and, for his ideas, was persecuted by the medical profession. He was driven from various towns and, although he was finally able to resume practice in Leipzig, an injunction against him in 1820 made it again impossible for him to practice and drove him out. He finally went to Paris, where he was free to practise and where he died in 1843.

Latest scientific findings seem to bear out a basic assumption of homoeopathy, the system of treating diseases by small quantities of drugs that excite symptoms similar to those of the disease.

It is that substances diluted infinitesimally can have a curative effect. Scientists have dismissed this idea, pioneered by a German doctor, Samuel Hahnemann, 1755-1843, for well over a century.

Were they all wrong? "If the unbelievable is to be believed," as the British scientific journal *Nature* heads the editorial of its 30 June 1988 issue.

But it counsels caution. Readers must not necessarily believe the experimental findings outlined by E. Davenas et al. in the magazine's issue No. 333.

Believe it or not their mere publication is most unusual. As a rule the panel of anonymous advisers would ensure that reports of miraculous findings were spiked.

In this case the findings have been referred to one panel of assessors after another for nine months, each specifying increasingly difficult requirements. Yet no errors or substantial gaps have come to light. For the time being the miracle holds water.

The editorial notes in alarm and dismay that we would need to "jettison a substantial part of our intellectual heritage" if the findings were to be borne out.

Yet for once it is not a matter of clairvoyancy or psychokinesis, of astrology or water-divining, of unidentified flying objects or spherical flashes of lightning.

The findings involve fairly simple, easily repeatable test-tube experiments with human blood serum, immune responses of white blood cells ("polymorphic nuclear basophile granulocytes") that carry IgE-type immunoglobulins on their surface.

If these cells are brought into contact with another serum containing the IgE antibody, an IgG-type immunoglobulin, there is a vigorous response.

The cell sends particles known as granules out through its membranes, a complex process known as exocytosis.

This reaction is easily identified by the change in colour capacity of the granule, or optical degranulation, and plays an important part in allergy diagnosis.

The tremendous sensitivity of many biological systems is well-known, and few if any scientists would be surprised to learn that a single molecule of an allergen or a sexual aroma was enough to trigger powerful responses by an entire organism.

But what J. Benveniste of the University of Paris-Sud and his co-authors, now 12 in number, from six research institutes in France, Italy, Israel and Canada have unearthed upsets the hitherto self-evident idea that at least a molecule of the agent must be present to trigger the effect. The 13 zoologists and medical research scientists progressively diluted the serum with water in a ratio of 1 to 10 (or even 1 to 100) and checked its effect by counting the coloured cells.

To their surprise they discovered that while degranulation initially decreased to almost nil as the anti-IgE was diluted, it then increased, decreased and increased again almost periodically.

Peak degranulation of between 40 and 60 per cent is reached after every six to nine 1-to-10 dilutions, with minimum levels of a few per cent in between.

This is bound to seem beyond belief. Diluting the agent six times reduces the number of anti-IgE [illegible] millionth.

Sixty further dilutions would mean, in theory, that an entire ocean would no longer contain a single molecule of the substance.

Yet experiments have shown the near-periodic progression of effect to continue even when dilution has reached a ratio of $1:10^{120}$ — a ratio at which, again in theory, the entire universe ought no longer to contain a single molecule of the initial substance.

These incredible findings — a wave-shaped dependence of effect on the logarithm of the concentration of the agent right down to the most infinitesimal dilution — have been confirmed in a wide range of experiments with several other agents.

But it only worked if the diluted substance was shaken well in the test tube (mechanically rather than by hand). A gentle shake was not enough, and shaking the test tube for longer than 30 seconds had no extra effect.

The exact periodic pattern has not been reproduced; it seems to depend on finer features of the blood serum used.

Modern science views the whole idea as quackery. In such cases scientists check their experiments for every conceivable error, including anything that might occur to their worst enemy.

Double blind tests have naturally been undertaken, with neither the experimenter nor the evaluator knowing which potency, or degree of dilution, was involved.

These details were not revealed until the results had been ascertained. Experiments were referred to other research institutes and repeated, but to no avail. The findings were invariably the same.

Additional tests using filters and chromography indicate that the unknown intermediary which appears to relay the effect of the original agent even in its total molecular absence is not biomolecular in character.

The anti-IgE molecule has a molecular weight of 150,000, but filters that would retain any molecule of this size let the mysterious information through.

Yet how is the enormous complexity of such a gigantic molecule to be relayed in much, much smaller structures forming part of pure water? (The process has been found to work with a variety of al-[illegible])

Towards the end of their article the authors inevitably speculate about such mysterious watery structures the existence of which has occasionally been alleged by "outsiders" — and strictly dismissed by schoolmen.

Must they still be considered out of the question? Or can their existence no longer be ruled out in principle?

One gram of water contains 30^{23} H_2O molecules. Is there more complex interaction between them, such as the ability to form patterns, than physicists and chemists have so far credited them with?

A kind of "holographic outline" of the antigen structure in pure water is what would be needed, and it would need to be possible to transfer it to a 100th dilution by shaking it.

It is worth noting in this context that the information is invariably lost when the liquid is heated to 70-80° C, whereas a temperature commensurate with the agent's molecular structure is needed for higher concentrations.

Hounded out of town ... Samuel Hahnemann. (Photo: Ullstein)

Even odder, the transfer or relay mechanism would need to conform to a wave pattern with a purely fictional "concentration."

As long as there is not even an approach to a theoretical basis for understanding such absurdities most scientists will agree with the *Nature* editorial that "some kind of spirit" seems to be involved.

Thus, the argument runs, before many more sceptical research scientists come up with these and similar findings we might do better not to believe the unbelievable.

When a handful of people report inexplicable observations and findings sceptics will always argue that they are either deluding themselves or deliberately trying to mislead others.

Even research carried out by a number of distinguished scientists can be based on deliberately falsified data, as research scientists at the Max Planck Biochemistry Institute found out to their cost some years ago (they placed too much trust in a member of staff).

But the present findings, confirmed by six research institutes in four countries, virtually rule out any risk of fraud. The only remaining possibility is a margin of as yet unidentified error.

The editors of *Nature* note in an unusual postscript or "editorial proviso" that the authors have agreed to let an independent commission of experts check their work on the spot.

The article totally fails to mention homoeopathy, the branch of medicine to which the findings will come as no surprise.

Its founder, Samuel Hahnemann, worked — along the lines of Paracelsus and others — with similar potencies at the turn of the nineteenth century when Avogadro had only just discovered why each mol (or molecular weight in grams) of a given substance contained an equal number of particles and long before Loschmidt worked out their number (60^{23}).

No scientist who has wanted to be taken seriously by his fellow-scientists has since felt able to defend homoeopathy, which isn't to say that he might not consult a homoeopathic practitioner for his ailments and those of his family.

One is reminded of a tale that is told about the physicist Nils Bohr. When a friend noticed a horseshoe on his door-frame and asked whether Bohr believed in it, he answered:

"Of course not, but people say it helps even if you don't believe in it."

Peter Kafka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 11 July 1988)

Continued from page 7

case the influence of city height limitations do not accelerate the imagination.

Heavy traffic will present problems. Each tower plans to have a car park for 500 cars. Pretty spartan when one considers that the smallest tower, BfG house, will have 2,500 users. On the other hand the city will offer its citizens the attraction of the "new accessibility" as a temptation.

Messeturm is the most standoffish. The public restaurant is an awkward 29 metres above ground.

The lower storeys of the three other towers, offer glass covered malls with shops, restaurants and generous lobbys. Joos says the DG house is even planning a ballroom and a winter garden with a 20-metre-high roof with palms and fountains.

However the grapevine says that the competition is not sleeping. And sure enough the Japanese are interested in building a 200-met re-tower.

Zurich Insurance wants to build a tower near Messeturm. The design has a sharp rounded peak.

IG Metall and the polytechnic are flirting with the idea of building a tower. One would build it. The other would rent it.

There is even talk of building a skyscraper for the burnt down opera house. The stage would be in the base of the building. The rent of expensive offices above it would finance it.

If the FDP had not made the proposal, and if the SPD had not been so ethusiasic about it, the idea might never have even been considered. But the CDU have the majority in the local assembly. So both parties have to express their enthusiasm from the banks of the opposition.

Dankwart Guratzsch

(Die Welt, Bonn, 13 July 1988)

■ BEHAVIOUR

The Bride of Satan and other wholesome games



Young Germans are showing increasing interest in the occult. They paint their rooms black, wear black clothes and sleep in coffins.

They frequent graveyards, call themselves devotees of Lucifer and oppose their parents and the established churches.

Lurking in the gloom to satisfy one's needs is the tenor of the song "Kill Again" sung by The Slayer.

It reflects a trend that parents and teachers, theologians and psychologists find alarming.

Satanic cults are gaining ground among teenagers. They are a trend that seems to be spreading behind a wall of cotton wool.

Even young people who have no time for them seem strangely tolerant, accepting them from a distance along "leave them to it" lines, while there are always businessmen keen to profit from the trend.

Katharina, 15, came home from a week's holiday and told her mother she was going to paint her room black, sleep in an open coffin and wear nothing but black clothes.

To her mother's horror, she had decided to become a *Grufti*, or Gothic punk.

She sees herself as a "bride of Satan," a platform debate on black magic and occultism held near Osnabrück was told.

Similar tales can be told of young people all over Germany. In suburbs of Bonn, Regensburg and Freiburg, punks with or without beer bottles and ghetto blasters camp out in graveyards at night, meditating in open graves they have dug for themselves.

In Münster Christoph, also 15, is a "medium" and one of a group of six teenagers who meet round a table at night to commune with the spirits.

In Würzburg a young girl asks a spirit whether she is pregnant. The answer, yes, drives her to the brink of suicide. Yet she isn't.

Educationalists say the range of occultism today extends from oscillation and moving glasses to blood rituals and sex magic.

Psychologists cite as one of the most macabre recent instances a case in Münster where two juveniles were sentenced last October for killing a girl friend "at her request." They were all members of a Lucifer cult.

What goes on in connection with the occasional rock concert is fairly harmless in comparison. Intensive sensual stimuli can culminate in animal sacrifices.



Hotline to eternity.

(Photo: Heinz Happ)

"I am a pariah," a 16-year-old schoolboy wrote. "If no-one else helps me maybe the Devil will."

These words, says Hanover clergyman Joachim Biallas, Protestant commissioner for ideological issues, are first and foremost a call for help to a generation of parents, an appeal to be taken seriously and given a hearing.

This loss of hope is reflected in the widespread reversal of values by young people who opt for evil instead of good and worship Satan rather than God.

This view is fully shared by Harald Baer, Roman Catholic commissioner for ideological issues in Hamm.

"The explosion of interest in the occult is a protest against a Christianity that has grown rigid and marks the dead end of a quest for a slot in life that society is simply not prepared to brook. Satan personifies this generation's outlook on life," he says.

Do what you want is the credo of Satanic teachings, and it frequently leads to an increased acceptance of violence.

It often begins, harmlessly enough, with white-painted faces and black clothes as a fashion quirk, with moving glasses and *Walpurgisnacht* parties attended out of curiosity and as a joke.

They may lead, especially for the young, to an encounter with the unreal that they are no longer able to handle.

Intensive sensual stimuli, ecstasy and hypnosis are said by psychologists to provide an opportunity of seeking refuge in another world.

It is sought by young people in a society in which they fail to find their bearings, encountering difficulties at school and at work and feeling unable to express themselves.

North Rhine-Westphalian Education Minister Hans Schwier agrees. He has decide to extend to the terms of reference of the white paper on youth sects to the occult and New Age movements.

He attributes the trend to "the grave fears most young people have about the future and their mistrust of a largely rationally-structured society lacking in meaningful activities."

Readiness on the part of young people to go in for the occult is increasingly marked in a society in which the existing system is seen as a "one-way street to prearranged boredom and meaninglessness."

The trend is increasingly marked now that children and young people are evidently finding it more and more difficult to come to rational terms with a progressively more complex environment.

In pinpointing the New Age movement Professor Schwier has raised the issue of its links with the occult. For years it has sounded so *gentle and* harmless and been associated with anything but the preoccupation of young people today with the Devil.

New Age first calls to mind the musical "Hair" and its emphasis on the age of Aquarius.

The "gentle conspiracy" of the 25,000-year newly-dawned age of Aquarius is said to combine "all the currents and events that can be described as trends toward a meaningful, humane and total life of the future."

It also, Professor Schwier's sources say, involves "a close connection with the occult revival, here understood as a form of expanded awareness, of deepening reality into arcane and occult aspects of the soul and of nature neglected by experimental physics and psychology because they cannot (yet) be understood in terms of scientific categories."

Traditional occult movements, the experts say, have paved the way for New Age spirituality. They have also grasped the opportunity of staging a comeback of their own.

To a large extent the problem has thus been seen for what it is, but more and more uneasy parents are consulting churches, schools and others for advice and assistance.

Harald Baer says the phenomenon has assumed epidemic proportions. At a rough estimates at least 200,000 children and young people have dabbled in the occult.

Yet answers to the query "How can I protect my child?" have so far been vague. Society's response has appeared to be slightly guilty and somewhat helpless.

Maybe the Church is called on to take the initiative. Roman Catholic commissioner Alphonse van Dijk says much ground remains to be made good.

"Clericalism is too exaggerated. Liturgy has grown too comprehensible. The imagery, the mystery and the incarnate nature of belief are lacking." And they are what the young are seeking.

Van Dijk appeals to all organisations, church or secular, to make youth work freer and less suspicious. Parents, he says, must try to talk with their children in confidence.

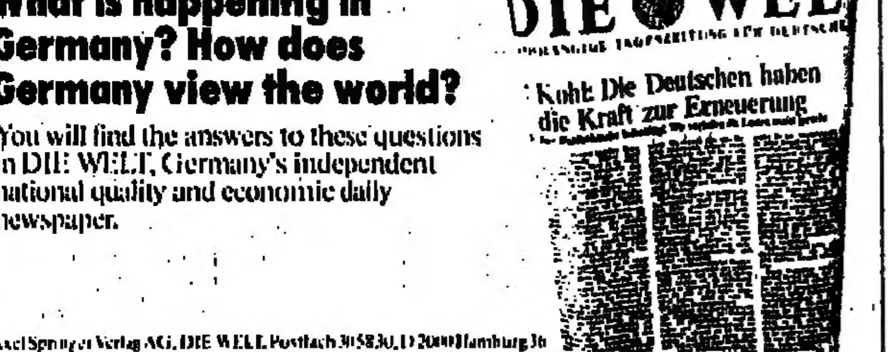
Bans are counter-productive. The occult merely seems even more attractive.

He advises parents and edutionalists to attend meetings and to try to join in the debate — tactfully and circumspectly.

Klaus J. Schwehn

(Die Welt, Bonn, 25 July 1988)





■ SHARP RISE IN DRUG DEATHS

Unshaven Joe in vanguard of special-squad operations

Deaths from drug overdoses in Germany rose nearly 50 per cent in the first half of this year to 281 (whole of 1987: 442). Last year, the worst centre was Hamburg, with 52 fatalities, which put it ahead of even Amsterdam (38). In the first half of this year, the climb steepened: 40 dead in Hamburg, 39 in Berlin, 28 in Frankfurt. In Munich, drug crimes were up 37.6 per cent last year and in the first half of 1988, up another 16.3 per cent. German authorities seized 250 kilos of heroin (up 123 per cent) and 297 kilos of cocaine (more than in the whole of 1987) in the half year. Official estimates are that the number of Germans trying heroin for the first time rose by 30 per cent in 1987 to 3,000. Peter Schmalz reports for the Bonn daily, *Die Welt*, on how the Bavarians are tackling the problem there. Deaths from drugs in Munich in the first six months this year were eight, much less than other big cities.

Summer shows itself at last: people in Munich's Englischer Garten bare their skin to the rare sight of the sun in an attempt to get a tan. It is an idyllic sight.

I am with Joe. That's all we'll call him. He wears his hair long and he hasn't bothered shaving. He is dressed in a tight T-shirt and carries a lightweight jacket over a shoulder. He sounds a little slow-thinking with his strong, rural Bavarian accent.

Joe buys and sells heroin buy the kilo. He belongs to the scene. In appearance, anyway. He has also helped put hundreds of dealers behind bars. Joe is a policeman.

In his spare time, he tries to help fixers get therapy and work. "Poor buggers," as he describes them.

Once, Joe received 500 marks over and above his salary in compensation because, as he was negotiating a deal in a house in a lower Bavarian forest with hash dealers, they insisted that he was a police informer and worked him over.

Joe heads a drug squad called REK (for *Rauschgift-Einsatzkommando*). As we wander through the Englischer Garten, he said: "It looks peaceful enough. But don't think that it is. There's always something happening."

A group of coloured people sit in a circle under a birch tree. "Political refugees. They're up to their ears in the business." Dig deep enough, he said, and you'd find a brown paper parcel somewhere.

Today, he just keeps walking past them and we go towards the Chinese Tower. Some of his customers are always in the Biergarten, more when it is sunny but only the hard core when it rains.

Most are unemployed and without roots. In the trade, they are part of the *Ameisenhandel*, the ant trade, the ranks of the small fixers. A fixer needs between 500 and 2,000 marks a day for the stuff.

On this late afternoon, Joe shows interest in a group sitting at tables and banks in the half shadows of two chestnut trees. Most are younger people with tankards of beer in front of them. Many are smoking, but it's not all tobacco.

Among them are several who carry in their trouser pockets small green armbands with white lettering: Police. They have been seconded from other police units, have been trained for two years and are used for a year by REK.

Inspector Gerald Gerstenberger, 48, is Joe's superior. He is regarded as Bavaria's most skilled drug criminal expert. When he begun in 1970, he was only the third specialist drug hunter the *Land* had had. He went to work and developed an operational squad.

Priority was stepped up when the Bavarian Secretary of State at the Interior Ministry, Peter Gauweiler, obtained the money to hire more specialists for the squad and equip them better.

The problem was that the older police investigators were becoming known. (One said: "When you've made a thousand arrests, everyone says hullo to you.") It was necessary to bring in new and young unknowns.

There were to be 20 new appointments for the squad. Three hundred applied in writing, 200 actually came in person, 50 were put on a short list and, finally, 20 were hired.

A second squad is being put together and is to go into operation in the northern part of the *Land*.

Two or three years ago, the investigators believed that the narcotics problem would find a stagnation level, even a high level. But this was swrong. The figures last year there was a dramatic rise in consumption.

Hans Ludwig Zachert, vice president of BKA (equivalent to the FBI and CID) referred to an "exorbitant intensification" of the drugs situation and Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann spoke of an "alarming increase" in the number of drug victims.

In Munich, the number of drug offences rose by 37.6 per cent last year — never before has there been an increase on such a scale.

And the trend continues. In the first six months this year, the figure increased another 16.3 per cent. Especially alarming is the number of deaths. There were 40 in the six months in Hamburg, 28 in Frankfurt and 39 in Berlin. There were "only" eight in Munich.

Why fewer in Munich? It is closer to the Balkans than other big cities and there is plenty of opportunity for mischief. Gerstenberger would explain it by the existence of his squad.

This afternoon that Joe and I are in the park, part of the answer at least may be supplied. Suddenly uniformed and non-uniformed police appear from everywhere and rush towards the group under the chestnut trees from all four sides.



Police raid women's lavatory at a Frankfurt railway station. (Photo: dpa)

Some of the young beer drinkers give signs and pull green armbands from out of their pockets. The raid on this occasion nets little: just 300 pep pills. Three men will be investigated. Another six will be charged with publicly smoking hashish.

English is the language of the scene. The men have been smoking shit. A small amount is a piece. And anyone wanting heroin asks for H.

Joe recognises one of the men being searched. He is an asylum seeker. Today, he is allowed to go. He mutters as he wanders off: "I'm lucky. I didn't have anything on me."

Inspector Gerstenberger says that before, policemen used to patrol on foot in pairs. They arrested offenders but bystanders began to stick up for the fixers. "That's why we needed more people."

Smokers who have not previously offended are not prosecuted. Instead their names are placed on a file in case there are further breaches.

Gerstenberger says he is satisfied with this approach. He says the raids which bring them in have an unsettling effect on the scene.

Gerstenberger explains how, over the past few years, the anti-drug forces have learned how to cooperate: police, lawyers, state prosecutors and judges. They maintain contact, meet for lectures and exchanges of ideas. There are two courts which specialise in drug cases and judgements are regarded as especially tough.

The pressure is having it effect on the market. A gram of hashish that can be bought in Amsterdam for four marks costs between 40 and 50 marks in the Englischer Garten. Heroin costs almost twice as much as in Frankfurt.

Joe says that this also has disadvantage for the police. He says that readiness to enter a deal for a large amount of heroin, pushers immediately think they're undercover agents. Who else would be silly enough to pay so much? — especially with the risk of higher punishment in Munich.

In Amsterdam, Europe's major drug-dealing centre, dealers are to a certain extent not bothered by the police.

Gerstenberger: "We've given them (Dutch police) tips about where they can seize kilos of the stuff. But it was after five o'clock and no one went along."

Joe: "If it had been me, I would have run all the way there." This year he has already worn out two pairs of training shoes on duty.

Naturally both men, whose group in one period of six days managed to make 33 arrests among the ant-trade brigade, are accused of being keener on getting the small fixer rather than big pushers.

Joe says: "But you can't forget that they will do anything to get their stuff. The draw more and more young people into the scene in order to sell to them and finance their own consumption. And once they're in, they don't come out again."

At the police station in Milbertshofen in the north of the city, it is nearly 8 pm. A squad are being briefed before a raid. A court in Bonn has issued an arrest warrant for the manager of a well-known sauna club. Suspicion: cocaine dealing.

Gerstenberger had been watching the driver of a luxury car over a period, but he hadn't been able to collect any evidence until one day when a courier crashed and died on his motorbike. He was found to have a piece of cocaine and 39,200 marks.

This was the link with the sauna. The money had been intended to buy cocaine in the Bonn region.

The sex bunker has double safety doors. This will be the way in for the police. Two people planted inside are to open the doors for the police, who include two young policewomen.

They burst in — but the manager is not there. He is arrested shortly after midnight at another building under surveillance.

At the sauna, it seems that the search is not producing much. One of the girls on the staff is issued with a summons after some hashish is found in her handbag.

Bodo, the black Labrador on loan from Munich airport customs men, sniffs around the luxury vestibule, in the Chinese Room of Lust and in the room with the polystyrene Greek columns.

Then, in a room at the back, he finds something. Under the mattress are two Italian banknotes. A wooden board is unscrewed. Underneath is 100 grams of hashish.

A federal court ruling puts 100 grams at the lower end of the range which comprises a "not insubstantial amount", the possession of which is punishable by not less than a year in prison.

The problem now is: whose hashish is it? As Inspector Gerstenberger drily put it: "A bed like this is used by many."

Peter Schmalz

(Die Welt, Bonn, 23 July 1988)

Drinking water

Continued from page 12

requirements concerning the pumping of effluent into the waterways . . . substantial investments will be made in the years ahead to enable Bonn's sewage treatment plant to reduce its output of ammonium nitrate, nitrates and phosphates.

"Planning documents will be submitted to the council and its bodies before the end of the year." And they will first debate them.

Thomas Agthe

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 26 July 1988)